

Town of Ellendale
Regular Meeting of Ellendale Town Council
September 3, 2025
Ellendale Fire Hall -302 Main Street
Minutes – Recorded on Apple iPad

1. **Call to order** – President Tom Panas began the meeting @ 7:00 PM. President Tom Panas then asked everyone to silence their phones.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited and a **Moment of Silence** was observed
3. President Tom Panas then asked for a Roll Call vote of attendance. **Roll Call** – was taken by Council Secretary Sam Noto and the following council members were present:
Tom Panas – President
Clay Walton – Vice President
Bob Billbrough – Treasurer
Joe Beck – Council Member at Large
Sam Noto – Secretary
Town Solicitor - Liam Gallagher
4. **Approval of Agenda** – Tom Panas then stated that the agenda for the meeting has been posted and the copies distributed. Are there any questions or comments about the agenda for this evening? (None) Tom asked to have a motion to accept the agenda. Bob Billbrough – motioned to approve; Joe Beck – seconded. Vote: Bob Billbrough: yes; Joe Beck: yes; Clay Walton: yes; Tom Panas: yes, and Sam Noto: yes. OK, the agenda is approved. Tom: Thank you.
5. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – Tom Panas: In our packet, we have several previous minutes to review. The first is October the 2nd, 2024. Are there any comments or changes? (None) The next is November 6th, 2024. Are there any comments or changes to the November 6th council meeting minutes? (None) And the next minute meeting minutes was for August the 6th of 2025 and reading from last month. Any changes or any comments on the meeting from our August meeting?(None) Alright, so with that said, I'd like to have a motion to accept the minutes that we just reviewed. Joe Beck: 1st motion. Clay Walton: Seconded. Secretary Sam Noto: The minutes approval: Joe Beck: yes; Bob Billbrough yes; Tom Panas: yes, Clay Walton: yes; and Sam Noto: yes. The minutes approval has passed. Tom: Thank you, Sam.
6. **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Bob Billbrough Report: the treasurer's report for the period ending on July 31st,2025. Total income for the month of \$217,055.66; total expenses \$31,498.80; general fund ending balance of \$730,109.02. In that balance is \$125,771.75 for community reinvestment funds. So, minus that from the general fund balance, you have an operating residual fund of \$604,338.07 outstanding tax invoices at

the end of July were \$72,860.63. That concludes my report. Clay: So, in reference to back tax things, are we at this step for the people that have not answered or come in to work out a payment plan are we at the next step now? Or do or do we need to? Bob: With the problems we've been having with the post office, last week I sent out the bills again as a reminder that they're passed due. So, we'll see what happens with that first and then we'll move on to ... Clay: another 15 or 20 days or 30 days or something. Bob: Right. Tom: Out of the 33, how many do we have liens attached? Bob: I believe 5. Tom: What's the next level? Bob: That we need to discuss. I mean, do we wanna put them up for sheriff sale and people lose their houses? That's the next step. Tom: Ok. Clay: I would say, I mean, not that we want to see anybody put out their house; but, if these, if there's a group that hasn't made an effort to even contact to preserve their ownership; then why is it fair to the ones that are paying their taxes to ignore the ones that aren't? Bob: I understand. Clay: But, I don't know the next step so shouldn't we get the solicitor involved to advise us what's hopefully that step motivates some remedy here. But right now, we're just still kicking it down the road. Tom: Right. Clay: We haven't done anything to motivate those people that are just ignoring us too. We've done more noticing and and warning than any town probably around has. So, I mean it's in fairness to the taxpayers we should go to the next step and what we should do it with guidance from the solicitor. Tom: right and these 33 they're not any of the ones that are on payment plans or anything. Bob: Some of them are on payment plans. Tom: OK, but not those five. Bob: Only three or four are on payment plans at the moment. Tom: Ok. Bob: And some of those we need to redo. Tom: OK. Alright the moving right along nice report Bob. Thank you. The police chief's report ... Sam Noto: Mr. president Tom: Yes? Sam: So at the last meeting, I brought up the idea that the money that we have in the Bank that was kind of lying dormant a lot of debt funds that we have and so our worthy treasure down there and myself we met with the bank and they proposed a couple of options for us. And we asked some of the questions that I know some of the council had regarding are other towns doing what we're proposing as well? We found out they were. We met with the vice president community bank Mr. Steve Onuschak and we also met with the president down there Jack Riddle. And they're working with - they have about 18 communities in Sussex County that they're working with one of them being Greenwood. And they're doing similar types of things with them. So, the proposal that I brought forth was that we're only earning .15% on our funds that we have in the bank. And after discussions with vice president down there and finding out that some of the other municipalities are taking their access cash funds that they have available and they're putting them into CD's and that's what the treasurer and I would like to propose at this point that we take the excess funds put them into CDs. Instead of getting .15% would be getting 4 1/4%. I mean, the quarter percent is twice as much as we're getting now! So, 4 1/4% would be - you know - just a real benefit to the town here. We would have a a new funding stream basically. And I think in the in the packets there, I've attached some of the calculations that our Treasurer made based on that and what we would be getting

over a 7-month CD. And the way that we have it structured is that we would use multiple CDs so that they would be tiered in case we need to take any money out in a CD. We would take them out one CD at a time just to have enough operating funds to continue to fund our town on an as needed basis. We found out from them that there would be no penalty to us from that bank. Usually, you get penalized if you take out CDs early; but, because we have such a substantial sum of money there in their bank they would be willing to waive any penalties. We would still get the interest to date on that CD when we withdraw it. Bob was there, anything else you wanted to add to that? Bob: One of the accounts is transfer tax money that we received and I verified with Sussex County that it was OK to invest it that way and they said yes because they do the same thing. Tom: That's good. Liam (Town Solicitor) Mr. president, if I could just second. I totally agree with the findings that you guys have my only recommendation would be for any vote on moving forward with investing to table it and advertise it in next month's agenda, so that any public comment can be had and we can get the public's input on whether or not investing is what the town wants. My only concern is you know this portion of the meeting is truthfully for the treasurer's report and kind of an overall accounting. This is, I would consider, something separate and something that you may want to advertise to the public at large before taking on. Clay: It should have been on the agenda. Tom: OK, with that also then let's just look at the fact that we're the bank is saying that there's no penalties and the bank is saying that over the 250 insured amount that they're covering. Sam: Yes. Tom: I believe that that's great and it's a great opportunity for us; but, I think we need a letter from the bank in writing stating that. Sam: I believe Bob has an e-mail because he addressed it to the to the vice president and so he has the e-mail from them stating that. Bob: I have an e-mail for the penalties and not losing interest for all. Clay: That isn't sure that there were assured up above the FDIC. Tom: Is that something that should be? Bob: We are supposed to get a letter every month with the amount that's covered past the \$250,000 on each account. Did we get that letter? Kayla: We did get that letter before: but, no one's been interested. Bob: Yeah, there's supposed to be mailing out a letter that shows what they're covering past \$250,000 in each account. Tom: OK, well so we would need a signed letter then. Liam: So just something in writing from the bank. Bob: With all the questions to you about ... Tom: Yeah, that's great. Clay: So, maybe for the people that are present that did show up their calculations were put \$400,000 in a spread of CD's and it made you \$10,061.00 in seven months. So, you have zero risk and you made \$10,000 back to yourself in seven months. Bob: We're not doing it now - it's like between 1 and 2 thousand if we're lucky. Sam: Yeah, you got \$93 on the last statement. Joe: How does it benefit them to pay us more interest and not charge us any penalty if we take our money back how how's that help them at all? (Sam, Tom, Clay) Money wise, they're making money. They're making more on it than if we took it somewhere else. Sam: They don't want to see us leave their bank and go somewhere else and shop to another bank. So they're really willing to work with us on this project. Tom & Clay: OK, good.

7. **Police Chief's Report** – Tom: The next item on the agenda is the Police Chief's Report. I'll just give you an update. Our chief is out on a medical leave and will be out for period of time. Last I heard he's doing fairly well he's recovering; but, on that note to cover some of the time we have the jobs in blue that are doing their patrols and we're moving some maybe instead of a Sunday evening we're taking it to a Tuesday night or Wednesday night or Thursday night moving it around a little bit to shake it up a little bit so we have some additional exposure. Clay: And adding to - not moving around. So we still have our weekend coverage and we've added to that additional weekday patrols. Tom: Alright. OK. Joe: How do we pay that? We pay by patrol or by hour? Clay: By the hour. So, it's - we're doing 4 hour blocks right now, and it's by the hour, and the rationale was Bruce has exhausted all of his sick time and vacation time. So, whatever his salary he would have made been making while working; that anything that hadn't been covered by a grant, would have come out of the town budget. So, therefore, sliding into jobs for blue isn't costing us any additional money. Matter of fact, we could add some more hours with the amount that the people have been earning.
8. **Town Manager's Report** – Tom Panas: The town manager's report. Kayla: I do not have report. I just officially started yesterday. Tom: Officially welcomed Kayla back and expressed, "We're glad to see you again."
9. **Town Clerk's Report** –Tom: OK, the town clerk's report I see the business licenses we issued 5; building permits we had 12; certificate of occupancy were five. There was no park rentals or rental licenses for this period of time.
10. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Community Outreach** – the Chair of the Community Outreach Terrie Ottomano gave a verbal report at the meeting (See attached). During Terrie's report she was informed by President Tom Panas and Vice President Clay Walton that any further improvement projects will require bids provided to the Council for approval for monetary disbursement and funding. At the conclusion of Terrie's report Councilman Joe Beck asked the following: was it last year we went to the Veterans Home in Milford? Terrie: Yes. Joe: Are they doing that again are you planning on doing anything like that again this year? Terrie: No just cards to recognize veterans this year; but, if you want to organize that Councilman Beck ... Joe: I really enjoyed that last year. Terrie: And I have another suggestion as well, Home of the Brave it was it was great it was interacting with these folks; but, I'm thinking they see lots of people. Home of the Brave takes care of homeless veterans so I have information on that I just I can't pull it off. Tom: OK thank you Terry.

Vistor Recognition – Tom Panas announced that at this time, anyone wishing to address the council may do so. Raise your hand and state your name. You will be given two minutes to speak with no rebuttal from the council. (See attached letter read aloud by Karen).

Karen Emery Brittingham: - for the record, I am here and I think we obviously I came to council 1st and not through community outreach the reference that I have is citizen recognition.

Patsy Young: I talked to Bob about the traffic on Oak Street is awful. And what they're doing is you have this chicken, I guess they have a feeding truck the long truck and they've been coming down. We had people coming down - Bruce was saying that the GPS is taking the people they're coming from Bay Bridge they're taking to Oak Street. And what they're doing is taking tour buses. One day was 3 tour buses come by. You had that long feed truck had to come over on the grass to let the tour buses by. Now today, we had to feed truck coming to Ponder Avenue. Then, you had somebody passing the truck on the driver side. The way that the speed is all and what they're doing they're passing when they get up to the curb we're out of that they're there they have come to a complete stop because they don't know what they're thinking but they're passing and that's a dangerous route. And those feed trucks and dump trucks and all that I was asking how do you think Del-DOT could do something. Because I don't even see a speed sign down there anymore. Clay: Do you know what time of the day - is it prevalent at a certain time of the day? Patsy: They start up early. So they start like 8:30 in the morning. Clay: But is it between 8:00 to noon or is it all day? Patsy: It's all day long. The cars you think (seeking acknowledgement from her neighbor at the meeting)? Clay: I was just thinking, so we could direct an officer out there to kind of figure out what was going on. Bob: I think it's the Waze GPS app that's doing this. The GPS - that app has a habit of sending people through residential areas. Patsy: And I mean this, we're going to have a bad accident on that road because they don't know the road. Tom: Right. Patsy: And you get like what the neighbors say, so we've been counting the ones that are home retired and you have like 30 cars. You think it's a funeral thing coming through; but, this is the way they're doing this. This is awful; but, those trucks and stuff we're going to have an accident. Bad accident because they don't know the road when they get to the curb all of them come to complete stop. They're passing one another on the road. Tom: OK. Patsy: The day I thought that there was gonna be a bad accident cause the car passed on the driver side. Something needs to be done because there were houses right there. It was supposed to be a dead-end road on Ponder Ave. Well, the man come through one night it's been a while longer while back he had a bad accident in the back where Janet lives because they thought it was a road. But this month, but I the time they got to my house it was a dead end. So it's like, it's like this mix up they need to straighten out and figure something out before somebody gets killed. Tom: Alright. We'll try to figure something out. Patsy: And like I said you need to speed sign. Tom: Yep, alright. Important to have a speed sign. Thank you, Miss Patsy.

Donald Dutton: The corner of Ponder and Willow St. there's a guy parking his pick up there on top of the sidewalk on that curve. And I live back there, my grandson and

his family lives back there, my mother-in-law is back there and can't get around that vehicle back there. It sits there on the sidewalk and I've called Bruce numerous times about it and the truck's still sitting there. I think it needs to be no parking, you will be towed. There's no sense in having the sidewalk if nobody can use it. Tom: Where is this now? Don D.: Ponder and Willow. Tom: Ponder and Willow, OK. Don D.: I've called Bruce numerous times about it when he had his old vehicle. I kept saying something about it and they just let him park wherever he wants to park. If a fire truck or an ambulance come there they can't get around there because he's partly in the road and blocking the whole sidewalk. Kayla: Yeah, he's on the corner right? Sorry Donnie, when you're going to his house - that corner right there. Clay: He's parked there on the weekends. Joe: Parking on the sidewalk, that's definitely a violation, right? I've said something to the guy and he just ignored it. Tom: Who is the person? Don D.: His name is Russell. When he first got the pickup, the pick-up he has now, he parked it back next to his brother's van on the grass. But, they don't do that anymore. He even he drained the oil and everything over on the sidewalk. Tom: Oh my gosh. Don D.: So, that's one thing and then the other thing is I know that the town is not responsible for road route 16 through Ellendale. That road is terrible. I mean, I don't have to tell you all you have to do is ride on it. Are they planning on paving it or are they're just gonna leave it like that forever? (mixed Council members): I believe that they're supposed to be starting soon. Kayla: Del-Dot is planning on redoing 16 they're going portion by portion. As of right now, they are expected to do all starting in fall times in here. I don't have an exact date. As soon as I get a date, I'll make sure that's put on the website so everyone can know when they're gonna start construction; but, that is their plan to start this fall. They came in and did the concrete work where the road was messed up and now they're probably going to come back and do a lot more. Kayla: Yeah, they're plan is to do drains. Clay: And then they ran out of money. Kayla: We've been notified they're gonna do that. Don D.: It's interesting that there's one (unrecognized word) through Ellendale on both sides and Ellendale was fine and you get into the town and you got to put two seat belts on. It just don't make no sense. Tom: Yeah, I hear you. Don D.: The other thing was I was a family fun day and it was a big success. And I was really proud that how many people there, the vendors and everything. I've heard no complaints anywhere. Tom: Very nice, thank you. Patsy: Oh, I'm sorry one more thing. We had a storm over the last year or what that broke down the road where the curve is - some great big old tree had fell down almost to the road. Del dot came and two men got it pushed the tree back; but, it looks bad. Kayla: Where exactly? Patsy: right at the curve. You can see the great big old tree. And it was almost to the road. So what they did they got it back into place; but, you still can see it looks bad. Joe: Is that out of town limits or in town limits? Patsy: That's town limits on Ponder. My house is on the one side. This is on the right.

11. Old Business:

- I. 2026 Budget Approval – President Tom Panas introduced the first item of Old Business to be the 2026 Budget Approval. Do we have any questions about the Budget? Treasurer Bob Billbrough as well as the other Council members responded no. Tom asked for a motion to accept the budget. Bob made a motion to accept the 2026 budget. Vice President Clay Walton seconded the motion. A vote was conducted by Secretary Sam Noto with the following results: Bob Billbrough - Yes; Clay Walton - Yes; Joe Beck – Yes; Tom Panas – Yes; and Sam Noto – Yes. Budget was approved and passed.

12. New Business

- I. Community Development & Housing Grant – Tom: Under new business, we have the Community Development & Housing Grant. Bob and Sam, you have the information on that. Sam: Yes, so we saw that we had this active grant for the town. And it's a federal grant. A federal grant with federal funds and we were in contact with the director there of Sussex County that's involved in the community affairs like this. And she said they didn't have anybody on the list and Bob and I met with her and her name is Brandy Nauman. We met with her and Brandon Hamilton and Nicole Riddick and they basically explained to us how the program worked and that we needed to provide them with people that they could contact and if they qualified to have repairs done to their house. And this is for the town of Ellendale. This federal grant gets passed on from the federal government to the state government and on the Sussex County and then Sussex County divvy's it up among small towns where home repairs are needed to help improve and give people an opportunity to fix their houses that are on low incomes or fixed incomes and are struggling to get their house up to speed with the rest of the community. So, upon meeting with them they laid it all out. First, they had a nice slideshow presentation and they provided us with applications. And it's just a simple one-page application. Bob and I have sat down with four people to date that appeared to qualify for this particular involvement with this grant and I have three more pending that I'm going to sit down with this week. And this includes repairs to your to your roofing, to doors, to windows, electrical problems, plumbing, windows mechanical. And the two basic qualifications for it were that you had to be the homeowner, living in the house, OK, and you had to be paid up on your taxes. Now Bob and I looked into this further because we wanted clarifications based on the way it was set on the application about these past taxes due and what we found out was that was simply Sussex County taxes - it didn't really apply because we pleaded our case to say hey we've got some people in town here that are behind in their taxes and reason they're behind their taxes is because they're low income and they're on Social Security and they

can't afford to pay their taxes let alone fix up their house. So, we're going to leave it up to them to either qualify or disqualify them; but, we're going to continue to pursue people that we think in the town could use some additional help. And with that, yeah, I've submitted the four people so far that we know of and we're looking to get some more. I've given Terry and Tony a column to post both on the website and the newsletter and that we're looking to cultivate some more interested, some more people now in the town of Ellendale that could use their homes fixed up. Bob, do you have anything else you want to add on to that? Bob: That pretty much covers it all. Joe: Was there an income ... ? Sam: There is. There's threshold levels and it's based on the number of occupants in your house. So, if you're a single person in the house, I think the threshold is like \$56,000. If you're below \$56,000 in income, then you can have some repairs done to your house along those lines. Now, this is, these are simply repairs to your house. This doesn't qualify, you know, it's not like you can go in and say well I'd like to upgrade put on an addition, stuff that would be basically renovations to your house or something like that. It's things that are broken, things that need fixed. Clay: if you find 4, 5, 6 or 7 candidates ... Sam: Yes. Clay:... and the funds only support four of them, do the two automatically roll over to the next round of grants, next year's grants? Sam: Right, so there's another grant coming up because we're almost at the end of the federal fiscal year. So, there's a new one starting in October, OK. And so, and we don't know if Ellendale will be on that list for next year. So, that's why we're trying to, you know, get established. Get this thing rolling here and at least encumber those funds. If we could get people on the list, then they could encumber those funds, we don't lose that grant money and it goes to some other community somewhere. So, that's we're trying to do at this point we're trying to expedite the whole process to get as many people signed up as we can, they'll be on the list. If they don't get them to them this year, then they could possibly get to them next year. But, we need to have people on that list so that they can contact them and see if they qualify. Once we've provided them with the names for their list and so forth, then they actually contact those people directly. I'm sure they have someone come out and look at the house see to what extent ... Tom: Who's controlling the grant, you said Sussex County? Sam: Yes, Sussex County has the list and that's the beauty of this grant is they're doing all the accounting for it. They're doing a lot of the legwork. The only thing we're really providing to them is the list of people and then they're making all the contacts, they're keeping all the accounting records of that, and they're simply providing us with, you know, here's your qualifying folks that you have submitted to us. So, once you get the application done and submitted, the rest is up to them. It's in their hands. Bob: They can also help with accessibility things too, like ramps. Sam: Yes. Terrie: I want to take it down off the website knowing that it can go back up if it's gonna end for 2025. What is the deadline?

Sam: I'll have to get that for you from Brandy. Bob was just mentioning the wheelchair ramp accessibility. They have a real nice program with their accessibility ramps they actually have metal ones. OK. Because they're more weather resilient and they're portable. So, they can bring in, you know, one of these ramps that's a metal ramp, set it up at the house and if that person no longer needs anymore that they move whatever the case may be they can come and they can pick up that ramp and take it and use it somewhere else. Tom: Cool. Sam: So, you're not stuck with this ramp forever that's starting to deteriorate and getting weathered and so forth and now you got to fix it you know because it's in bad shape. Tom: Right, thank you, Sam. That's great.

Donnie Dutton: I know this is out of line; but, I saw on TV about the cameras on poles in Ellendale. So, I meant to ask when I was on before; but, what was thought about that? Tom: we'll talk after the meeting. Thank you, Sam, Bob. That's great work. That's nice.

- II. Grills for the Park – Tom: The next item on the new business is grills for the park. Our historian here, Clay, had some information, that we used to have a grill in the park. Clay: Yeah so, we're told that there used to be a grill in the park that kind of got vandalized as per Jamie. It was used until the kids started hanging on it and tore it up. It was an amenity that wasn't abused and was used. So, the thought was, is you know, we replace it. The park seems to be getting more and more use, more traffic through there. So, it would be just a nice amenity to reinvest with putting the benches in the park to go back and put the grills. So, I've kind of shared with you the pictures - hibachi style grill with a stainless bottom, long post set in concrete five \$550-\$600 apiece. So the questions would be, do we want to put a grill back in the park? Do we wanna put one or two with the usage you know as far as space amounts so you could have multiple grills used at the same time in the park. And then when? Do we worry about putting it in this year's installation? Or do we just wanna go ahead and secure them and put them in for next spring? I mean, it seems like we'd get some fall usage if we if we got them and got them in right away. Looked at park model. Looked at a lot of grills. Looked for the heaviest, thickest State Park model type hibachi that was out there. And that that's why, I think there was 130 and \$140 grills. And this was a \$500 grill. I mean, it's just the roughness of it. So, if we're on board with putting 2 basically we're looking at a budget of about 1200 and 1300 dollars. Jamie and I got post hole diggers and Jamie gets a couple bags of Sakrete. Tom: Any suggestions? Bob: I only issue I have is usually it's gonna be families that use these. If a kid were to walk into it or put his hand on it and get burned are we gonna be liable for it? Is that gonna be covered under insurance? Clay: I don't have the answer; but, all the state parks have them. Milford has them and there's no signs around them hot - don't touch or anything. We did we looked at the other half (inaudible voices) Yeah, that's right Bob: They've got more money we

do, too. On the safety side of it, I think you wanna put it far away from the pavilion that a grease fire didn't burn your pavilion down. It looks like there's the sidewalk that goes across there, you could probably do one on each side of it. And that would allow you to utilize the sidewalk and stuff. Again, to your point, stepping it back off the sidewalk so somebody walking down the sidewalk didn't put their hand against her or anything. Sam: Well, we talked about possibly posting signs in there, you know, park rules type of sign so that people know, hey this is what's expected as far as cleaning up after yourself disposing of the charcoals properly with whatever we provide them to do there. Tom: We'll take care of the charcoal. Clay: Yeah, that was, we didn't want them to ... Sam: And the grill itself. I mean, they can't just leave it, you know, ohh for the next person to clean up, right? Tom: Yeah, but the coals, they leave the coals and we take care of the coals. Clay: And we talked about what to do and rather than putting a separate container out there and then having to provide them a shovel, Jamie said he would just go in on Monday's usually and just scoop them out and put it in a in a can, you know. So, it would already be extinguished. Bob: With barbeques comes alcohol, so ... Clay: we need to, maybe the maybe to your point, the signage could be refreshed. Sam: Yes. Clay: And include the grill in the signage of you know, dogs in the park, the alcohol and the whole thing. Get Rogers or somebody just to a freshened-up sign. Kayla: With the increased footwork through the park, it's probably a good idea to refresh the sign anyway. For the rules and the hours and such for the park. It has been a very increased use. I stopped at Town Hall to pick up the basket and there was a couple families out there this evening. So, it's probably a good idea to update this that sign anyway, especially with us thinking about putting in the grills too as the safety precaution. Joe: We've got a camera on that pavilion now. Clay: We do. Sam: It reaches into there. Tom: And the front gate. So moving forward, can we have a vote to move forward to have two grills and pursue the outline that we just described with the signage and rules and regulations? Sam: Do we have a motion? Joe: I motion. Bob: I second. Tom: There you go. Kayla: Two grills. Sam: And the model that Clay includes pointed out in his documentation? Clay: Yep. Sam: OK, Joe Beck – yes; Bob Billbrough – yes; Sam Noto – yes; Clay Walton – yes; and President Tom Panas – yes. Unanimously approved.

Tom: Good let's see what do we got left the under correspondence.

12 Correspondence

Tom: You had something from GMB and update on that, Clay? Clay: So, we've been hounding them about the survey taken so long. And Kayla just let me know today that our representative, engineer George, has kind of been the middle guy between the surveyor crew and the engineering group. He's just gonna have

them come sit with us and make the explanation to me. They're being where we thought things were, they have them in a different spot. And they don't have the explanation on how it got there. Why it got there, you know. One example is there's two town boundary stakes on 16 going out of town. You can, only one of them can be the corner of town. You can't have them 100 yards apart and both of them be at the corner of town in line on the same shoulder of the road. This makes no sense. So, they're gonna come sit with us and explain how they ... Tom: whatever date or at any time, yet? Kayla: No, I just spoke with him yesterday and he's gonna speak with him. Joe: Does that include the survey they were going to do on those 40 acres? Clay: Yeah, so that that was that was one of the questions that easement, the right of way easement and they have provided what they have found which is basically the property line between it and the other property. Joe: And like these maybe trying to figure out what the value of it, right? Clay: Well, the realtor had put the value on it, so he had to have the easement on it to sell it. But, the realtor had put the value on it at only you know a very minimal hunting property price. He thought the number out there like 1000/2000 thousand an acre. It wasn't very much. Unless you want it, unless you had a real reason around it. Joe: Right. Clay: Because it's an easement, there is no frontage. Joe: Right. Clay: All of your frontage is somebody else's property. Joe: Right. Clay: So I mean, that's why the town got it because it wasn't any good to Forest Landing to develop because they couldn't they had no frontage. Joe: That backs up to Miss Housman's property, right? Clay: It does. Joe: Have we talked to her at all? Clay: She's on the list. Joe: Interest? Clay: She's, the guy that has the property in front of you between Washington and McCauley is interested. But she as a resident of town probably gets preference. We thought her first and see if she has interest and then go from there. So that that just kind of come about this weekend. Tom: Can we set up a meeting with her in the next week? Clay: yeah, that's what I've been trying. I've been by her house twice to try to corner her and she wasn't around. I just need to catch her and see what her interest is and where she goes. Joe: I didn't know with the amount of land she owns that there would be something else that the town would sell. Clay: so that's the idea. Tom: Also, under communications which Donnie would address this that I've had the interview that was on WBOC about the security cameras that they aired and then on their website they have the interview itself - an explanation of what was going on. Also, I had a sit down with the state police and they were interested; but, the person I talked to doesn't have the right authority to do anything and they're passing on the information to their communications department. So, we hopefully get some feedback from them or get somewhere where they would stand up and support us. I'm waiting for reply back from Milford. I sat down and talked to somebody at the Milford police station and the person hasn't gotten back to me was looking into something to give me some explanation and some

answers. Also, there was a phone call with the Lieutenant Governor's office that I had this afternoon that they followed up with me and they're pursuing and trying to look into it somehow, give us support, give us leverage. Do something that we can get the ball rolling then get our cameras up. If anybody has any other places to go or suggestions, I'm all for it. I'd like to get this resolved. We're running out of time. Donnie: So, well the state has cameras out 16&113. Clay: Not on DP and L poles. That's the issue. Donnie: The state has them there. This route through here is the state it's suppose to ... Clay: It's the poles. Tom: They own the poles. Clay: We can put cameras anywhere we want. We're trying to hang them on PNL poles, so we don't have to ... Donnie: What I'm saying is the state, this is a state highway. Clay: But, they don't own the polls. Donnie: But they have their own poles. Tom: Well, if they want to put up poles, right. That's town property out there now too. So why can't they why can't they put them through town, I mean this is State, too. Tom: That's an interesting point. OK. What else, one other thing. The solution the DP and L is saying is their argument is that if the camera was there and somebody took a shot at it, it would hit their transformer and cause an outage, blow up, cause problems. Their solution is for us to put a pole next to their pole and they'll run electric to it. So; therefore, they can still shoot at our camera and they can still hit their transformer. So, where is the answer? Not it. There is no argument. Clay: And the question and the state putting up a poll, we're trying to be right next to their poll because that's where the power is. The whole hiccup here is not having to do a line and a meter buried cable disconnects and everything. We want just come off of a street light to our camera. Tom: And that's the poles we selected have electrical on them already have lights on them and they're our system is line of sight transmission so it would go out and get to all the communities eventually as we grew. Donnie: But they paid the town for that whole computer, right? Clay: They do. Tom: Yes they do. Clay: On our side, that's the next thing - can we Jack the rent up to pay for our poles?

13 Executive Session – None.

14 Possible Action on Executive Session – None.

15 Adjournment – Tom Panas – Tom: So, with that, if there's no other questions, I would like to have a motion to adjourn. Clay: yeah, motion to adjourn. Joe Beck: Second. Clay Walton – yes; Joe Beck – yes; Bob Billbrough – yes; Sam Noto – yes; President Tom Panas – yes. Meeting adjourned.

16 Meeting Adjourned @ 7:57 PM.

Minutes transcribed by Council Secretary Sam Noto September 17th through 24, 2025