

**Enrolled Memorandum of the Meeting
Study Session/Meeting (In person)
Thirtieth Town Council of Highland
Monday, March 23, 2026**

The Thirtieth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in a study session on **Monday, March 23, 2026**, after the adjournment of the March 23, 2026 Plenary Meeting (7:30 O'clock P.M.), in the regular place, the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.

**Pursuant to Enrolled House Bill 1167, this meeting is convened as an in person meeting and live 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. If you are in the audience and unwilling to be recorded and live streamed, we ask you to depart the meeting now, otherwise your continued presence is your consent to be recorded and live streamed.

*All Councilors were simultaneously seen and heard. Councilor Doug Turich; Councilor Alex Robertson, Councilor Tom Black and Councilor Philip Scheeringa all participated in person. Councilor Georgeff was absent.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Doug Turich, Alex Robertson, Tom Black and Philip Scheeringa were present in person as indicated. Councilor Georgeff was absent. Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak was present to memorialize the proceedings. *A quorum was attained.*

Officials Present: IT Director Ed Dabrowski, Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra, Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta and Fire Chief Glenn Schlessler were in person.

x. **Discussion:** Appointments. None

Unless otherwise noted, all terms expire on the 1st Monday in January 2026 and or until a successor is appointed or qualified, not exceeding ninety (90) days.

• **Statutory Boards and Commissions**

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

• **Regional Statutory Appointments**

Home Rule Commissions or Boards

• **Legislative Appointments**

• **Regional Statutory Appointments**

• **Home Rule Commissions or Boards**

Place Holders should the Council decide to take up:

1. **Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council.
Term: Two years ending 1 Jan 2027. *Currently only 8 of 17 appointed.*
(Note: Current Appointees are: Diane Barr-Roumbus, James Roumbus, Sandy McKnight, Al Simmons, Sandy Ray, Ben Tomera, and Desiree Biro, term ending 1st Monday January 2027).Term is for two (2) years.

x. Discussion: Proposed Ordinance No. 1839 – Violations Bureau Payable Fines

The Clerk-Treasurer advised the Council that Ordinance No 1839 has been circulated to the Department Heads for their feedback. The copy in their meeting packet represents the latest. Their comments are represented in red.

Building Commissioner Ken Mika said these revisions were put together for the Department Heads review back in November of 2025. He said the revisions sort of sat on the back burner and he said we really would like them implemented, especially in the building department before the construction season really gets started. He said many of the increases are aimed at contractors that haven't pulled building permit or aren't licensed.

Metropolitan Police Chief said they increased fines for individuals parking in a handicap zone or parking in a no parking zone or parking longer than two (2) hours in a 2-hour parking zone

The Fire Chief said he increased the fine for parking in a fire lane.

The Public Works Director increased fines but also adding a provision that prohibits backing into spots on Highway Avenue.

Councilor Turich asked Ken Mika asked if vendors, such as food trucks or people operating out of a trailer and selling product in parking lots or on a corner covered?

Mr. Mika said yes and said it is a rather extensive process, as the vendor has to work through the PD and Clerk-Treasurer's Office to obtain a permit. Once they receive a permit, they are given a badge for identification. The process includes having the individual finger printed.

Councilor Turich then asked Ken, he read a violation for all offenses is \$250 but operating without a business license is only \$150. He asked why the difference?

Mr. Mika responded that many of the businesses do comply and get a business license. Through the years, we seen more of them getting licensed. If we hear of someone not having a license, rather than citing them initially, they normally go to them and advise

them they need a license or they will be cited. In most cases, they become compliant and get a license but we still cite them the \$150.

The Clerk-Treasurer raised a question for the Park Director, who was not in attendance, to the Town Attorney as it relates to defacing property. There is a fine of \$250 but can the Town attain restitution for the damaged property as well?

Attorney Reed said yes but opposed to being a violation, that would become a small claims case. The Town would file a civil case against the individual to recover the cost of the damaged property. He said small claims is \$10,000 or less.

Commander Banasiak asked Attorney Reed if the police charge them a criminal initiative, can they still write a local ordinance violation for defacing Town property?

Attorney Reed said in that case, a decision has to be made, whether to charge them with a local ordinance violation or a criminal initiative. He said if it was him, he'd rather see the misdemeanor because if it was a civil fine, that could involve a plea agreement or judgement, the court could order you hold up proceedings until restitution is made. He would have to tell the prosecutor that the Town has a significant civil penalty associated with this case. He said a small claims judge doesn't have the ability or authority to order injunctive relief. What the judge can say, if restitution is not made by x date, the fine is \$2.50 (example) per day until the Town notifies us that the damaged property has been repaired. Whereas, you can't make them fix it, you can fine them into the poorhouse.

Attorney Reed commented on the e-bikes or scooters ordinance. He said he has been working on that ordinance but one of the things that is concerning is the voltage. He said he went on-line and started looking at e-bikes. He said there's hardly any e-bikes that are under the voltage of 750. His concern is that our ordinance prohibits e-bikes with a 750 voltage or greater. He is concerned people will say Highland is trying to outlaw all e-bikes or scooters.

Councilor Turich asked if there is a difference between pedal assist and true electric? And then, in true electric, isn't there different classes? Some are classified as motorcycles, straight up motorcycles.

Attorney Reed said the e-bikes can have pedals or not but they cannot go over 28 miles per hour. He said there's another class for scooters. He said motorized bikes with unlimited speeds is classified as a motorcycle.

Councilor Scheeringa expressed concern with the weather changing and becoming warmer, there are more and more of them on the street. He said he was watching his son's baseball game and he saw two (2) e-bikes avoid the stop sign and almost got crushed by a car.

Ken Mika said he saw the same at Lincoln and Prairie. The driver was upset, apologizing that she almost hit the kids, while the kids drove off cussing at the women.

It was advised that Class 1 & 2 e-bikes are allowed on the bike trail but not Class 3.

The Clerk-Treasurer asked if the e-bikes could be prohibited from the bike trail and parks all together?

Attorney Reed said yes you can as state statute pertains more to definitions and licensing but the rest can be home rule generated.

Councilor Turich said the thought he saw signs on the bike trail that motorized vehicles were prohibited on the bike trail. He was advised that the prior parks director said that the park board had agreed to allow them on the bike trail because the bike trail connects the various communities, many which do allow them. E-bikes are allowed but motorized bikes are not.

Councilor Scheeringa said more and more kids are showing up on the roadway with gas powered bikes which aren't street legal.

Attorney Reed asked the Metropolitan Police Chief and the Commander to give him their recommendations on classes, voltage and maximum speed so he can finish the ordinance.

Attorney Reed was asked the question, if Highland outlaws e-bikes on the bike trail, what happens if a person is on a cross country e-bike ride, what happens when they come to Highland? Are they supposed to ride around Highland? His answer was yes.

Councilor Scheeringa said that the Park Superintendent advised the Park Board that the electric bikes are driving through the parks, tearing up the grass and leaving ruts. He said they are even riding through the soccer fields and leaving ruts.

The Clerk-Treasurer said he will make changes to Ordinance No. 1839 discuss tonight and circulate it to the departments. After adoption, because it has fines, before taking effect, he has to advertise 60 days in advance in the newspapers.

Ordinance No. 1839
Of the
TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA

An Ordinance Amending Certain Schedules in Chapter 9.85 of the Highland Municipal Code and increasing certain fines that are payable before an admissions Clerk in the Ordinance Violation Bureau, all Pursuant to IC 33-36, IC 36-1-3, IC 36-1-4, IC 36-8 and IC 36-9 et Seq.

Whereas, The Town of Highland is a local unit of general government governed by a Town Council, which is both the fiscal and legislative body of the Town;

Whereas, IC 36-1-3-2 confers upon all local units the powers that they need for the effective operation of government as to local affairs;

Whereas, IC 36-1-3-6 (b)(1) prescribes that any such exercise of power shall be authorized through passage of an ordinance passed by the legislative body;

Whereas, Indiana Code 36-8-2 et seq., authorizes the Town of Highland, as a municipality, to exercise powers for the purpose of protecting the health, safety and welfare of its residents, and to preserve the peace, order and safety of the Town; and

Whereas, I.C. 36-7-2-2 provides that a unit may plan for and regulate the use, improvement, and maintenance of real property and the location, condition, and maintenance of structures and other improvements;

Whereas, I.C. 36-7-2-3 provides that a unit may inspect any structure or other improvement at any reasonable time;

Whereas, I.C. 36-7-2-4 provides that a unit may regulate methods of, and use of materials in repair, alteration, and construction of structures and other improvements;

Whereas, I.C. 36-9-2-7 provides that municipalities may regulate the use of public ways; and,

Whereas, I.C. 36-8-2-4 A unit may regulate conduct, or use or possession of property, that might endanger the public health, safety, or welfare;

Whereas, I.C. 36-8-2-9, provides that a unit may regulate public gatherings;

Whereas, The Town of Highland, is a Municipal Government which may pass and codify ordinances for the operation of the government, all pursuant to IC 36-1-4 and IC 36-1-5;

Whereas, The Town Council believes this action to be necessary and desirable for the conduct of the affairs of the Town, and in the public interest, consistent with powers previously described as well as the powers granted under IC 36-1-3 et seq.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That subdivision (A) of Section 9.85.060 of the municipal code be amended by repealing subdivision (A) and replacing it with a new subdivision, to be styled as (A), which shall read as follows:

(A) *Building Code*. The Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, hereby establishes and designates the following fine schedule for ordinances that are subject to admission before a Violations Clerk in the Ordinance Violations Bureau, and subject to the enforcement jurisdiction of the Building Inspector, the Associate Inspectors, the officers of the Highland Police Department, or any other person authorized or empowered to enforce the municipal codes of the Town of Highland:

Code Section	Violation	Fine
15.10.010 et seq.	Building Code Violations	1 st offense: \$100 2 nd and all subsequent offenses: \$200
15.10.010 et seq.	Permit Violations	1 st offense: \$150 2 nd and all subsequent offenses: \$250
15.10.010 et seq.	Stop work orders violations	All offenses: \$250
15.15.030 et seq.	Electrical permit & swimming pool violations	1 st offense: \$100 2 nd and all subsequent offenses: \$200
15.20.010 et seq.	Plumbing permit violations	1 st offense: \$100 2 nd and all subsequent offenses: \$200
15.20.070 et seq.	Contractor License violations	All offenses: \$250
15.30.010 et seq.	Unsafe Building violations	All offenses: \$250
15.35.010 et seq.	Building demolition violations	1 st offense: \$150 2 nd and all subsequent offenses: \$250

Section 2. That subdivision (B) of Section 9.85.060 of the municipal code be amended by repealing subdivision (B) and replacing it with a new subdivision, to be styled as (B), which shall read as follows:

(B) *General Regulations.* The Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, hereby establishes and designates the following fine schedule for ordinances that are subject to admission before a Violations Clerk in the Ordinance Violations Bureau, and subject to the enforcement jurisdiction of the Building Inspector, the Associate Inspectors, the officers of the Highland Police Department, the Public Works Director, the Assistant Public Works Director or any other person authorized or empowered to enforce the municipal codes of the Town of Highland:

Code Section	Violation	Fine
5.05.160 (A)	Operating without a Business License Registration	All offenses: \$150
5.15.120 et seq.	Amusement license violations (per machine)	All offenses: \$100
5.25.010 et seq.	Controlled Event Violations	All offenses: \$250
5.35.010 et seq.	Peddler and solicitor violations	All offenses: \$250
5.40.020 et seq.	Tattoo parlor violations	All offenses: \$250
6.05.040(A)(B)	Dog Running loose	1 st offense: \$100 2 nd and all subsequent offenses: \$150
6.05.040 (E)	Dog Barking	1 st offense: \$100 2 nd and all subsequent offenses: \$150
6.05.090	Animal vaccination violation	All offenses: \$100
6.05.100	Animal waste violation	All offenses: \$100

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6.10.010	Animal license violation	All offenses: \$ 75
8.15.090	Road cut violations	All offenses: \$250
9.45.010	Minor curfew	1 st offense: \$ 100 (if curfew is only charge) 2 nd offense: \$200 3 rd offense: mandatory court appearance
9.50.010	Skateboarding violation	All offenses: \$ 50
9.55.030	Various nuisance violations	All offenses: \$150
9.55.100	Weed violations (per day)	All offenses: \$100
9.60.030	Abandoned and junked motor vehicles	All offenses: \$ 125
9.70.060	Various noise ordinance violations	1 st Offense: \$100 2 nd and all subsequent offenses: \$150
9.80.040	Fireworks: discharging unapproved fireworks as defined by IC 22-11-14 et seq.,	All offenses: \$ 150 (\$250)
9.80 et seq.	Various offenses in chapter	All offenses: \$ 125
12.15.030	Wastewater disposal violations	All offenses: \$250
12.15.040	Littering & illegal dumping	All offenses: \$100
12.15.050	Open burning of garbage or rubbish	1 st offense: \$100 2 nd and all subsequent offenses: \$200 (\$250)
12.15.060 (F)	Trash collection/pilfering violations	All offenses: \$ 50
12.15.060 (G)	Unauthorized collection of recyclables	All offenses: \$ 50

12.14.140	Abandoned refrigerators and appliances	All offenses: \$ 75
12.15.150 (A)	Roll Off Containers on public ways or alleys	All offenses: \$150
12.20.100 (B)	Wastewater disposal violations	All offenses: \$250

Section 3. That subdivision (C) of Section 9.85.060 of the municipal code be amended by repealing subdivision (C) and replacing it with a new subdivision, to be styled as (C), which shall read as follows:

(C) *Park Regulations.* The Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, hereby establishes and designates the following fine schedule for ordinances that are subject to admission before a Violations Clerk in the Ordinance Violations Bureau, and subject to the enforcement jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, the Director Parks, the officers of the Highland Police Department, or any other person authorized or empowered to enforce the municipal codes of the Town of Highland:

Code Section	Violation	Fine
11.10.060 et seq.	Defacing/destroying Park Property (per machine)	All offenses: \$250
11.10.070 et seq.	Bringing in Trees, Shrubs, without authorization	All offenses: \$100
11.10.080(A)(B)	Littering or dumping Trash/noxious materials	All offenses: \$250
11.10.080 et seq.	Littering or Dumping Trash	All offenses: \$100
11.10.090 et seq.	Unauthorized introduction of game/unauthorized fishing, hunting/animal waste and pets on a leash	All offenses: \$100
11.10.100	Fires, ashes and the like	All offenses: \$100

11.10.110	Firearms, weapons, explosives and throwing stones	All offenses: \$100
11.10.120	Sleeping and Camping	All offenses: \$100
11.10.130(A)	Park Traffic – parking and storage without payment fee and overnight	All offenses: \$100
11.10.130(B)	Park Traffic – riding or operating vehicles in park	All offenses: \$100
11.10.130(C)	Park Traffic – riding or operating vehicles in park when closed and barricaded	All offense: \$ 100
11.10.130 (D)	Park Traffic – parking and storage only in parking designated lots	All offenses: \$ 75
11.10.130 (E)	Park Traffic – vehicle and spotlight shining into park	All offenses: \$ 75
11.10.130 (F)	Park Traffic – three-fourths-tons vehicle in park without special permit or authority	All offenses: \$100
11.10.140 et seq.	Snowmobiles, sledding, skiing and skating	All offenses: \$100
11.10.150 et seq.	Golfing in parks	All offenses: \$ 45
11.10.160 et seq.	Bows and arrows prohibited	All offenses: \$ 45
11.10.170 et seq.	Baseball play confined to designated areas and baseball diamonds	All offenses: \$45
11.10.180 et seq.	Aircraft landing or alighting without a written permit	All offenses: \$250
11.10.190 et seq.	Swimming, bathing or wading	All offenses: \$100
11.10.200 et seq.	Disturbing the Peace	All offenses: \$250
11.10.210 et seq.	Presence in park during hours of closing	All offenses: \$ 75
11.10.220 et seq.	Alcohol and drugs	All offenses: \$250

11.10.230 et seq.	Gambling, fortunetelling, and the like	All offenses: \$250
11.10.250 et seq.	Use of facilities and programs without proper fee	All offenses: \$100
11.10.260 et seq.	Soliciting, peddling, without a permit or authorized contact	All offenses: \$250
11.10.270 et seq.	Dissemination and displays without permit	All offenses: \$ 45
11.10.290 et seq.	Failure to comply with lawful orders of park/law enforcement personnel	All offenses: \$100
11.10.310 et seq.	Use of moped, ATC, e-bikes, e-scooters, ATC and all-terrain vehicles in parks	All offenses: \$250
11.10.320 et seq.	Skateboarding where prohibited	All offenses: \$ 45

Section 4. That subdivision (D) of Section 9.85.060 of the municipal code be amended by repealing subdivision (D) and replacing it with a new subdivision, to be styled as (D), which shall read as follows:

(D) *Parking/Nonmoving Violations.* The Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, hereby establishes and designates the following fine schedule for ordinances that are subject to admission before a Violations Clerk in the Ordinance Violations Bureau, and subject to the enforcement jurisdiction the officers of the Highland Metropolitan Police Department, Code Enforcement Officer, or any other person authorized or empowered to enforce the municipal codes of the Town of Highland

Code Section	Violation	Fine
10.20.040 et seq.	Stopping, standing or parking near industrial plants gate	All offenses: \$150
10.20.050 et seq.	Stopping, standing or parking on parkway	All offenses: \$150

10.20.060 et seq.	Parking not to obstruct traffic	All offenses: \$250
10.20.070 et seq.	Vehicles parked on sidewalks	All offenses: \$150
10.20.080 et seq.	Parking in alleys	All offenses: \$150
10.20.090 et seq.	Parking in front of public buildings and theaters	All offenses: \$ 75
10.20.110 et seq.	Angle Parking	All offenses: \$ 75
10.20.115 et seq.	Head in Only Parking	All offenses: \$75
10.20.140 et seq.	Parking prohibited totally	All offenses: \$250
10.20.150 et seq.	Truck Parking	All offenses: \$250
10.20.160 et seq.	Bus Loading Zones	All offenses: \$100
10.20.180 et seq.	Parking prohibited during certain hours	All offenses: \$ 100
10.20.190 et seq.	Fifteen-minute parking	All offenses: \$ 100
10.20.200 et seq.	Two-hour parking	All offenses: \$ 100
10.20.210 et seq.	Special regulations for street work	All offenses: \$150
10.20.220 et seq.	Special regulations snow removal	All offenses: \$100
10.20.230 et seq.	Parking during period of leaf collection	All offenses: \$ 100
10.20.270 et seq.	Parking, storage or maintenance of certain vehicles in residential and commercial areas	All offenses: \$250
10.20.280 et seq.	Parking without special permit display prohibited	All offenses: \$125
10.25.020 et seq.	Snowmobile violations	All offenses: \$ 100
10.25.030 et seq.	Parental responsibility and wrong aged operator	All offenses: \$250

10.25.040 et seq.	Moped traffic violations	All offenses: \$200
10.25.110 et seq.	Failure to display motorized bicycle license	All offenses: \$200

Section 5. That subdivision (E) of Section 9.85.060 of the municipal code be amended by repealing subdivision (E) and replacing it with a new subdivision, to be styled as (E), which shall read as follows:

(E) *Fire Lane and Physical Disability Parking.* The Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, hereby establishes and designates the following fine schedule for ordinances that are subject to admission before a Violations Clerk in the Ordinance Violations Bureau, and subject to the enforcement jurisdiction of officers of the Highland Metropolitan Police Department, Code Enforcement Officer, members of the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), or any other person authorized or empowered to enforce the municipal codes of the Town of Highland

Code Section	Violation	Fine
10.20.100 et seq.	Parking in Fire Lanes	All offenses: \$250
10.20.120 et seq.	Parking for the Physically Handicapped	All offenses: \$250

Section 6. That the provisions set forth in this ordinance shall become and remain in full force and effect thereafter, immediately following the date of its passage and adoption, upon its signature by the executive in the manner prescribed by IC 36-5-2-10(a) and its publication as prescribed in IC 36-5-2-10(b).

Introduced and Filed on the 13th day of April 2026. Consideration on same day or at same meeting of introduction, sustained a vote of in favor and opposed, pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this 27nd Day of April 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 33-16-4-1;IC 36-5-6-5)

Place Holders should the Council decide to take up:

- x. Discussion: Proposed Ordinance No. 1845: An Ordinance to Amend the Compensation, Benefits and Personnel Program of the Municipality, to be known as the Compensation and Benefits Ordinance commonly known as the Employee Handbook, particularly creating a Residency Stipend Provision in the Public Works Department (Agency) and the Parks and Recreation Department. (placeholder)

- x. Discussion: Proposed Ordinance No. 1842-A: An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 1842 to establish the Wage and Salary Rates of the Elected Officers, the Non-Elected Officers and the Employees of the Town of Highland, Indiana particularly creating a Residency Provision in the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department (Agency). (placeholder)

Councilor Turich said these two (2) ordinances are delayed because of him. He said it is on him, as Councilor Robertson has reached out to him several times but he hasn't been available.

Councilor Robertson and Scheeringa advised the Council that they would not be in attendance at the special meeting executive session.

- x. Discussion: Wheel Tax (placeholder)

Councilor Turich said he has heard a lot of discussion about excluding various vehicles. He said it seems every time to he turns around, another vehicle is added to the list.

The Clerk-Treasurer said the only vehicles he wrote into the ordinance was municipal owned vehicles and church buses.

Councilor Turich said he has recently heard two (2) others. One being classic cars and the other disability plates

Councilor Black said he proposed excluding classic vehicles as the cars are on the road less than six (6) months. He said he would also like RV's excluded. He said RV's are in storage six (6) to nine (9) months out of the year.

Councilor Turich said he understand disabilities plate but classic cars and RV's are still on the road. He asked Councilor Black if he is in favor of a reduced rate for classic cars and RV's?

Councilor Black said he opposes the wheel tax. He doesn't support it at all.

Councilor Turich said if we don't put a tax in place, we will be on the very bottom of the list from the state when it comes to Community Crossing Grants. He said it is something we are being forced to do but he respects Councilor Black opinion.

Councilor Robertson said the Council needs to go back and figure out how much will the Town generate with a wheel tax. He said at the last meeting that the wheel tax was discussed, it seemed as if the numbers were arbitrary. He said there were no hard figures. He said the figures we generate should always allow the Town to get the maximum out of the Community Crossing Grant.

The Clerk-Treasurer said the last time he prepared the numbers for the Council which was in 2022, the wheel tax would generate about \$622,000.

Councilor Scheeringa asked the Clerk-Treasurer when the local income tax will go away and how much of it goes to the Community Crossing Grant.

The Clerk-Treasurer said the state extended it one (1) year, so the Council will not have to implement a local income in an election year but moved it to 2028 for 2029. He said \$550,000 from CEDIT goes to pay for the Town match for the Community Crossing Grant.

Councilor Turich said that once the Town has seen the numbers, he would consider excluding some vehicles. He said if classic cars and RV's on make up \$6,700, that he would consider but if its \$67,000, that's something else.

Attorney Reed said we might want to consider Baker-Tilly or London Witte to generate the numbers. He says he has no problem reaching out to the BMV to request the data but he's terrible with math. He said we could have them run different scenarios.

Councilor Turich asked Attorney Reed if he can have the numbers by the next meeting?

Attorney Reed said he doesn't know if he can have it that quickly. He said it is dependent upon how soon the BMV is able to get back to him with the information.

x. Discussion: E-Bikes & Scooters (placeholder)

see discussion under Ordinance No. 1839

x. Discussion: Food & Beverage Tax (placeholder)

Attorney Reed said they are waiting on the state to get back to him and Councilor Robertson on the next steps on the food and beverage tax. He said the Town has to first determine what they are going to spend the additional tax revenues. He said it doesn't have to be an exhausted list but maybe 4 or 5 items. Once that is determined, they will have to let our representative know. After that, they will push it through down state. He said they will have to also notify the legislative writer for State Senator Dernulc, who has agreed to write the bill, so State Dernulc can introduce. He said her name is Krista. He said the tax wouldn't take effect until 2027.

x. Discussion: Transmittal Letter Committing Highland to Participate with the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission for the Purchase of Zero Emission (Electric) Vehicles dated March 9, 2026.

Building Commissioner Ken Mika said the fourth and final bid arrived today. The last being Foster Electric. He said bids came in from a low of around \$20,000 to a high around \$30,000. The two (2) lowest were only \$880 difference. He said they had asked the vendors to split their bids, one for the PD and the other for the Town Hall garage. He said Hyre Electric was the cheapest for the PD and Foster electric for the Town Garage.

Commander Banasiak asked if the quotes can be separated? He said if you can separate, that will save around \$5,000.

Ken Mika said even though the quotes were separated, the plan was to let the lowest bidder do both jobs. He said, his department does not have the money in his budget to install the chargers.

Councilor Turich asked if the Town really needed all four(4)drops or can we just do something at the PD location and then your vehicles would go over to the PD to charge. He said would it be cheaper to charge everything over there? If the vehicles only require charging once a week, the building department's vehicles could be charged over the weekend and the PD vehicles during the week.

Ken Mika said he and his staff wouldn't mind walking to the pd, if the pd didn't mind them charging their vehicles over there.

Councilor Turich said he realizes that the charging can take place at either the PD or the Town Hall garage but he would hate to invest in the Town Hall garage and if the Council decides to build a new Town Hall and that garage demolished. He asked who was the lowest bidder on installing the charging stations in the PD?

Mr. Mika said the lowest bid for the PD was Hyre.

The Fire Chief raised some concerns about EV vehicles charging in the basement of the PD. He was informed that the basement in the PD is sprinkled.

Whereas no decision was made, the general consensus was to authorize the Town Council President to affix his signature to the committal letter.

Commander Banasiak said a decision wouldn't be needed to April 13th but the Council asked the Clerk-Treasurer to advertise for a special meeting to approve the Council President to affix his signature to the commitment letter prior to the executive session.

Plenary Business Meeting of Monday April 13, 2026

- Minutes of the Meeting of Monday, March 23, 2026.
- Accounts Payable Voucher
-