Enrolled Minutes of the Sixty-Ninth Regular Meeting or Special Meeting
For the Thirtieth Highland Town Council Regular Plenary
Business Meeting (In person) Monday, August 24, 2026

The Thirtieth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its regular plenary session on Monday, August 24, 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 Schlesser, 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 and John Reed, Attorney with JPR Legal Services were present.

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 10, 2026 Plenary meeting were approved by general consent.

Special Orders:

1. **Executive Proclamation:** A Proclamation Proclaiming the September 17 to 23, 2026 as United States Constitution Week in the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana.

   (a) Reading and Execution of Proclamation.
   (b) Action by the Town Council President

TOWN OF HIGHLAND
PROCLAMATION OF the TOWN EXECUTIVE

A PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF U.S. CONSTITUTION WEEK
SEPTEMBER 17 -23, 2026

Whereas, The Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, is a product of reflection and choice, embodying the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law, not by men; and

Whereas, September 17, 2026 marks the two hundred thirty-ninth anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States by the Constitutional Convention; and

Whereas, Led by James Madison, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin, these brilliant men created a new form of government that became the standard for self-government to the world, and September 17, 2026 marks the two hundred thirty-ninth anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States by the Constitutional Convention; and

Whereas, It is the privilege and duty of the American people to commemorate the anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties and to accord official recognition to this magnificent document; and

Whereas, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States, designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week,

Now, Therefore, I, George Georgeff, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, now hereby proclaim the week September 17 through 23, 2026, as U.S. ***Constitution Week*** in the Town of Highland;

Be it Further Proclaimed, that the citizens of Highland are hereby urged to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution possessed in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Corporate Seal to be affixed at the Highland Municipal Building, this 24th day of August in the year of our Lord Two thousand and twenty-sixth.

TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA
BY ITS TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

George Georgeff

Attest: Mark Herak

Mark Herak, Clerk-Treasurer

The Town Council President approved the proclamation by his signature:

2. **Consideration of Proposed Additional Appropriations**: (controlled and non-controlled funds): Proposed Additional Appropriations in Excess of the 2026 Budget for the Gaming Fund in the amount of $17,00.00.

   (a) Gateway Publication
   (b) Public Hearing.
   (c) Action on **Appropriation Enactment No. 2026-22**: An Enactment Appropriating Additional Moneys in Excess of the Annual Budget for the **Gaming Fund,** all pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18, and I.C. 36-5-3-5

   **requires 2 readings if the Council desires to pass it on the first night.*

Councilor Scheeringa introduced and moved for the consideration of Appropriation Enactment No. 2026-22 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The enactment could be considered at the same meeting of its introduction.

Councilor Scheeringa moved for the passage adoption of Appropriation Enactment No. 2026-22 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a two-thirds vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The enactment was passed and adopted upon the signature of the municipal executive at the same meeting of its introduction.

Town of Highland
Appropriation Enactment
Enactment No. 2026-22

AN ENACTMENT APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONIES IN EXCESS OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET **for the** GAMING FUND, ALL PURSUANT TO **I.C. 6-1.1-18, and I.C. 36-5-3-5.**

WHEREAS, Following a public hearing advertised pursuant to I.C. 5-3-1, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget for the **Gaming Fund**;

WHEREAS, It has been determined that such additional appropriations as may be approved by this enactment, will not increase the levies set under I.C. 6-1.1-17, all pursuant to I.C. 36-5-3-5;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That for the expenses of said municipality, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the **Gaming Fund** herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same: Gamine Fund

Acct. No. 4437-0000-47006 EV Charging Stations		$17,000.00
	Total 400 Series:	$17,000.00
	Fund Total:	**$17,000.00**

Section 2. That the Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized and instructed to inform the Department of Local Government Finance of this action and that these monies be made available for expenditure pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18.

Section 3. That in satisfaction and for the purposes of the provisions set out in I.C. 36-5-2-9.6, I.C. 36-5-3-5, I.C. 36-5-4-2, this enactment shall be deemed properly filed and introduced before the Town Council at a regular or special meeting, properly called and convened pursuant to I.C. 5-1.5-14 *et seq*.

Introduced and Filed on the 24th Day of August 2026. Consideration on the same day or at same meeting of introduction sustained by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed, pursuant to I.C. 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED AND ADOPTED this 24th Day of August 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 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)

Comments from the Public or Visitors:

Penny Buck, Highland, asked if there was an emergency plan and is that plan available to the public? She said in particular for the storms that occurred a couple of week ago? Councilor Georgeff said he didn't think an emergency plan existed for the emergency we just had.

Penny said, that surprises her. As a schoolteacher of 35 years, I had a red binder everywhere I've taught that said, that's my emergency plan. These are the plans written that I have to do. So I'm surprised that we don't have anything like that.

Councilor Turich interrupted and said there was an emergency plan created under the late Chief, Bill Timmer. He said it is reviewed annually and kept on the shelf in the fire station. After the disaster, the Council met that Saturday to review. After the meeting, each department went into granular detail of what actions needed to be taken.

Chief Schlesser said the first several days of a disaster of this magnitude, we are all focused on emergency response. All the players know their assigned positions, everybody goes out and does what they're supposed to do. This is based upon the plan, their experience and training. He said it is not uncommon not get a government group like this together for several days after an initial incident, because on a community-wide disaster, you have many days of response phase.

Penny said we have a lot of trees in Highland that are very old. Is there some sort of a plan that maybe the town and the residents can take some kind of action to take down these huge trees so they don't fall into our houses?

Councilor Georgeff said, immediately after the disaster, the Town hired vendors to identify trees that are within the right-of-way, the town's easements, that are either going to die or are half-dead, that may fall on a home and marked them. He said the vendor will come back and take the trees down but will not be grinding the stumps. He said grinding the stump is the responsibility of the home owner.

She then asked what was the communication with the residents besides social media because she has been out of internet for the last 2 weeks.

Mindi Ray, the Park Superintendent said The Lincoln Center was posting all information that was coming through in person at the Lincoln Center at the community center. She said as, information was brought forth, it was posted

Mrs. Buck said she hasn't had internet for 2 weeks, how was she to review the posts from Lincoln Center.

Terry Steagall, Highland, as far as Highland goes, you guys did a great job after the disaster. He said his concern is we need a post disaster plan. The Council needs to take a hard look at things as conditions aren't going to get better as far as the environment. The Council might have to look at making an ordinance, when trees reach a certain height, the residents are required to top and thin them out. This might make the trees more resilient in high winds. This should also apply to parks. This might save the trees versus having them topple over in the next high winds. He said otherwise, we'll lose more trees like we did in the beginning of August. He said everyone knows a tree doesn't grow overnight. He said it falls upon the Council to come up with that post-plan. He said I think we have to make NIPSCO accountable. They made the whole disaster out of this thing and they're not doing their job. There's a class action lawsuit that we gotta decide if we're going to be a part of that or if we're going to file a separate lawsuit. Once the total bill is determined, we need to send NIPSCO the bill but make the shareholders pay it and not allow NIPSCO to pay for it by passing along higher utility costs to the residents. He also said another option is filing a complaint with the Regulatory Commission for NIPSCO not performing their duties. NIPSCO used to perform maintenance by cutting branches out of trees but they don't do that anymore, only when a line comes down.

Councilor Georgeff said he read where the Governor asked the IURC to open an investigation into NIPSCO to determine whether the rate increase, which was approved, the increase revenue was used on the items listed in the petition.

Lydia Lopez, Highland, asked if there were guidelines for trees that were damaged on the easement. She wanted to know what the property owner was responsible for, especially the trees that were uprooted. She said she heard the property owner was responsible for having the root grinded up. She also wanted to know who was responsible for replacing the earth.

The representative from DebrisTech was in the audience and he advised Lydia, if the tree was in the easement and the root was uprooted or exposed, they will remove the root and replace the dirt. If the root isn't uprooted or exposed, they will cut the tree off at ground level but the grinding of the root is the responsibility of the home owner. He said FEMA doesn't pay for stump grind when the tree wasn't in the easement.

Lydia also said in the process of removing the tree from her roof, Grimmer damaged her sidewalk and driveway.

Mark Knesek, Public Works Director said he is taking an inventory of the damaged concrete and will add her address to the list.

Lydia Shotts thanked the Council and the Town employees for the amazing job they did during the disaster. She said she received updates on everything. She said she didn't have any internet but could use her phone to find out whatever she needed. She said she too had trees standing in my yard that were damaged. She said there is a wonderful service that was arranged by the fire chief that came to Town called Go Serve. She said they are stationed at the South Fire Station and if you go and put your name of the list, they will come and haul the debris to the front of you house. They even cut down some trees and it's a free service. She had two (2) trees in her yard and the tree trimmer wanted $2,000, with being on a fixed income, she couldn't afford. GoServe took them down for free. She reiterated that the town employees did an amazing job.

Staff Reports: none filed.

Communications:

Timothy Ball Chapter, Inc. – Constitution Week – September 17-23
Big Downtown Restaurant Crawl – August 25 – 4 p.m. to 9 pm
Griffith's Rock & Rail – September 3rd to September 6th
Government offices will be closed on Monday, September 7st (Labor Day)
Trash/Recycling will be on Wednesday, September 9th
Town wide Garage Sale rescheduled to September 11th & 12th
Backyard BBQ - September 24-27th

Timothy Ball Chapter, Inc., NSDAR

Established 1929
Hammond, IN

Ruth Mickow
1314 E Highway 330
Griffith, Indiana 46319

August 3, 2026

Highland Town Hall
3333 Ridge Road
Highland, Indiana 46322

Dear Highland Town Council,

The Constitution Week Committee of the Timothy Ball Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in Hammond, Indiana is pleased to invite you to participate in the observance of our nation's upcoming Constitution Week from September 17 to 23, 2026.

On September 17, 1787, the U.S. Constitution was signed by 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia's Independence Hall. In remembrance of the signing of the Constitution and in recognition of the Americans who strive to uphold the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, the Congress, by joint resolution of February 29, 1952 (36 U.S.C. 106, as amended), designated September 17 as "Citizenship Day," and by joint resolution of August 2, 1956 (36 U.S.C. 108, as amended), requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week."

We would be very pleased if the Town of Highland would join us in this observance by proclaiming September 17 – 23, 2026 as Constitution Week in Highland, Indiana. We are enclosing a sample Proclamation which we hope you will return to the above address for display at our meeting.

Thank you for your commitment to Constitution Week.

Sincerely,

Ruth Mickow

Ruth Mickow
Regent, Timothy Ball Chapter

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 8 of 17 appointed.*

General Orders and Unfinished Business:

1. **Proposed Ordinance No. 1626-A:** An Ordinance To Amend Section 5.05.050 of the Highland Municipal Code Regarding Business License Fees, All Pursuant To IC 36-1-5 Et Seq.
Councilor Scheeringa introduced and filed proposed Ordinance 1626-A. There was no further action.

Councilor Black moved for the passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 1626-A. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were four (4) affirmatives, no (0) negatives and one (1) abstention, with Councilors Georgeff, Robertson, Black and Scheeringa voting in the affirmative and Councilor Turich abstaining. The motion passed pending the signature of the municipal executive.

ORDINANCE No. 1626-A
of the
TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 5.05.050 OF THE HIGHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING BUSINESS LICENSE FEES, ALL PURSUANT TO IC 36-1-5 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, Title 36, Article 1, Chapter 5 of the Indiana Code provides that the legislative body of a unit **shall** codify, revise, rearrange, or compile the ordinances of the unit into a complete, simplified code excluding formal parts of the ordinances;

WHEREAS, The legislative body of this unit, the Town of Highland, is the Town Council, pursuant to IC 36-1-2-9(5) and IC 36-5-2-2;

WHEREAS, The present general and permanent ordinances of the Town of Highland, formally codified in 2012, are in need of technical and substantive modifications desirable to further improve and perfect the Code; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council, is persuaded that it is necessary and desirable to adopt a technical and substantive modification to Section 5.05.050 in order to further improve and perfect the Code,

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

Section 1. That Section 5.05.050 subdivisions (A), (B) and (C) of the Highland Municipal Code are hereby repealed in their entirety and amended by successor subdivisions, which shall be identified and read as follows:

5.05.050 Business license fee and registration fee.

(A) Any person maintaining, operating or conducting any business, business activity, occupation or commercial establishment, or doing business, or engaging in any service or occupation within the town, including but not limited to acting as lessor for residential or commercial properties, or renting residential properties month to month, shall pay an annual fee prescribed by this section.

(B) In the event there is no specific fee set for the engagement of a particular business as lessor for residential or renting residential properties month to month or service, then an annual license fee for business or service not otherwise classified shall be **as follows:**

(1) $100.00. if paid before March 1st of the calendar year.

(2) $120.00 if paid after February 28th of the calendar year.

(3) If the business is being established for the first time, the license fee shall be that prescribed for payments made before March 1st.

(C) In the event there is no specific fee set for the engagement of a particular business as a commercial property, then an annual license fee for business or service not otherwise classified shall be **as follows:**

(1) $200.00. if paid before March 1st of the calendar year.

(2) $220.00 if paid after February 28th of the calendar year.

(3) If the business is being established for the first time, the license fee shall be that prescribed for payments made before March 1st.

(D) Exempt businesses as described in HMC 5.05.080 shall pay a registration fee as follows:

(1) $100.00, if paid before March 1st of the calendar year.

(2) $120.00 if paid after February 28th of the calendar year,

(3) If the exempt business is being established for the first time, the license fee shall be that prescribed for payments made before March 1st.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall be effective from and after its passage and adoption, <u>but not sooner than October 1, 2026</u>, as evidenced by the signature of the Town

Council President and attested thereto by the Clerk-Treasurer, all pursuant to IC 36-5-2-10 and IC 36-5-2-10.2.

Introduced and Filed on the 10th day of August 2026. Consideration on same day or at same meeting of introduction was not considered, pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this 24 day of August, 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of four (4) in favor, 0 opposed and one (1) abstention.

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)

2. **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 by 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.*

Councilor Scheeringa moved to defer Ordinance No. 1852 to the Town Council Plenary Meeting of September 14, 2026.

3. **Proposed Ordinance No. 1853:** An Ordinance establishing a Civil Town of Highland Motor Vehicle Excise Surtax and Wheel Tax.

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

Councilor Scheeringa moved for the passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 1853. Councilor Turich seconded.

Discussion: Councilor Turich was concerned that the rates proposed in the ordinance would only generate $547,000 and the number of $750,000 had been tossed about as the Town's matching portion.

Councilor Georgeff said there are other funds money can be drawn from to make up the difference, so the 100% match doesn't have to come from the wheel tax. He said we don't want to go to the maximum but see how the changes made plays out.

The Clerk-Treasurer reminded the Council, that the Wheel Tax has to be adopted by the 1st[h] of September. If it is adopted after or amended after September 1, the Wheel Tax won't take effect to 2028.

Councilor Robertson moved to amend the motion that all eligible vehicles under the surtax have an imposed fee of $25 and all under the wheel tax be at $40.

Councilor Georgeff asked for a second? Hearing none, Councilor Georgeff said the motion died for a lack of a second. Upon a roll call vote, there were four (4) affirmatives and one (1) negative, with Councilors Georgeff, Turich, Robertson and Scheeringa voting in the affirmative and Councilor Black voting in the negative. The motion passed. The ordinance was adopted pending the signature of the municipal executive.

ORDINANCE No. 1853
of the
TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CIVIL TOWN OF HIGHLAND MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE SURTAX AND CIVIL TOWN OF HIGHLAND WHEEL TAX

WHEREAS, The legislative body of the Town of Highland, pursuant to Indiana Code §§36-1-2-9(5) and 36-5-2-2, is the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of the years to come, due to significant State of Indiana legislative changes, the Town of Highland has and will continue to experience a substantial reduction in funding from the State of Indiana for use in maintaining Town roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the dramatic decrease in State funding, Town of Highland has and will continue to experience great difficulties in paying for the costs of properly maintaining the Town's roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, State statues now allow towns with populations greater than 10,000 that are in a county that currently does not levy a county motor vehicle surtax tax and wheel tax the authority to impose a local motor vehicle excise surtax and wheel tax to serve as a local funding source to help cover the costs of maintaining county roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, The County of Lake, Indiana, does not currently levy a motor vehicle surtax or wheel tax and the Town of Highland has a population well in excess of 10,000 according to the U.S. Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, After due consideration, the Town of Highland Town Council believes that it is reasonable and necessary to adopt this Ordinance to establish the Town of Highland Motor Vehicle Excise Surtax and the Town of Highland Wheel Tax to generate additional monies to help cover the costs of maintaining Town of Highland roads and highways; now, therefore, be it

ORDAINED, By the Town of Highland Town Council in consideration of the above and foregoing, as follows:

1. Town of Highland hereby ADOPTS AND IMPOSES the motor vehicle excise surtax, which shall apply to the following vehicles:
   (A) Passenger vehicles.
   (B) Motorcycles.
   (C) Trucks with a declared gross weight that does not exceed eleven thousand (11,000) pounds.
   (D) Trucks with a declared gross weight that exceeds eleven thousand (11,000) pounds.
   (E) Motor driven cycles.
   (F) Collector vehicles (antique or historic plates).
   (G) Trailers that do not exceed nine thousand (9,000) pounds.
   (H) Trailers that exceed nine thousand (9,000) pounds.
   (I) Mini trucks.
   (J) Military vehicles.

2. The motor vehicle surtax to be imposed shall be at the following rates:
   (A) Passenger vehicles: $25.00 per vehicle.
   (B) Motorcycles: $10.00 per motorcycle.
   (C) Trucks with a declared gross weight that does not exceed eleven

1

thousand (11,000) pounds: $25.00 per truck.
(D) Trucks with a declared gross weight that exceeds eleven thousand (11,000) pounds: $10.00 per truck.
(E) Motor driven cycles: $10.00 per motor driven cycle.
(F) Collector vehicles (antique or historic plates): $0.00 per vehicle.
(G) Trailers that do not exceed nine thousand (9,000) pounds: $10.00 per trailer.
(H) Trailers that exceed nine thousand (9,000): $10.00 per trailer.
(I) Mini trucks: $10.00 per vehicle.
(J) Military vehicles: $0.00 per vehicle.

3. Town of Highland further ADOPTS AND IMPOSES the municipal wheel tax, which shall apply to the following vehicles:
   (A) Buses;
   (B) Recreational vehicles;
   (C) Trailers and semitrailers, and;
   (D) Tractors.

4. The following vehicles are exempt from the municipal wheel tax established by this Ordinance:
   (A) Vehicles owned by the State of Indiana;
   (B) Vehicles owned by a state agency of the State of Indiana;
   (C) Vehicles owned by a political subdivision of the State of Indiana;
   (D) Vehicles subject to the motor vehicle excise surtax imposed by this Ordinance; or
   (E) Buses owned and operated by a religious or non-profit youth organization and used to haul persons to religious services or for the benefit of their members.
   (F) Vehicles of any kind or nature with Antique or Historic license plates.
   (G) Military vehicles.

5. The wheel tax to be imposed shall be at the following rates:
   (A) Buses: $40.00 per bus.
   (B) Recreational vehicles: $20.00 per vehicle.
   (C) Trailers and Semitrailers: $10.00 per semitrailer.
   (D) Tractors: $10.00 per tractor.

6. The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall collect the municipal motor vehicle excise surtax and the municipal wheel tax by and through its established procedures on behalf of Town of Highland. The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall be entitled to assess a service fee for assisting Town of Highland in collection of these taxes.

7. The Highland Town Council shall review the rates hereby established for the Town of Highland Motor Vehicle Excise Surtax and the Town of Highland Wheel Tax within five (5) years from the date of passage.

8. Upon passage, the Auditor of Town of Highland is directed to send a copy of the final version of the Ordinance to the Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles 100 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, and Indiana 46204.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this 24th Day of ~~July~~ August 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of 4 in favor and 1 opposed.

TOWN COUNCIL of the Town of HIGHLAND, INDIANA

George Georgeff, President (I.C. 3-5-2-10)

Attest:

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

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New Business:

1. Ratify the Meeting: Ratify the executive session meeting held on Monday, August 24, 2026 in the Upper Room of the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, pursuant to I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(B).

Councilor Robertson moved to ratify the special meeting held on Monday, August 24, 2026, After the Redevelopment Commission Meeting, in the Upper Rood the Municipal Building , 3333 Ridge Road. Councilor Scheeringa seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmative, no negatives. The motion passed. The meeting was ratified.

2. **Renewal of Group Medical, Vision & Life Plans. Current provider, Aim Medical Trust** ***(through United Health Care (UHC)) rates are proposed for renewal):***

PPO: Plan 2 - $750 Deductible – Maximum Out of Pocket $3,250 Employee only from $1,078.89 to $1,133.91 per month;
Employee and Spouse from $2,157.73 to $2,267.77 per month;
Employee plus children from $2,049.87 to $2,154.41 per month;
Employee and family from $3,128.73 to $3,288.30 per month;

HDHP: Plan 7 - $3,500 deductible – Maximum out of pocket $3,500
*to encourage employees to take the HDHP, the Town gives each employees an annual payment range of $1,181-$3,192 depending upon whether coverage is: employee only, employee & child, employee& spouse, employee & family

Employee only from $943.46 to $991.58 per month;
Employee and Spouse from $1,886.89 to $1,983.12 per month;
Employee plus children from $1,792.57 to $1,883.99 per month;
Employee and family from $2,736.05 to $2,875.59 per month;

The proposed blended rates from the Aim Medical Trust represents a 5.1% decrease over the 2026 rates.

(a) Action to approve the group medical, vision & life plans proposed by the Aim Medical Trust, Plan 2 and Plan 7 at the rates indicated above and to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to execute the documents. The policy to be effective January 1, 2027.

Councilor Robertson moved to approve the renewal of the group medical, vision & life plans proposed by the Aim Medical Trust, Plan 2 and Plan 7 at the rates indicated above and to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to execute the documents. The policy to be effective January 1, 2027. Councilor Scheeringa seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed.

2027 Final Aim Medical Trust Renewal

August 10, 2026

aim medical trust
Your Partner for Municipal Health

Highland

The Board of Trustees takes its fiduciary responsibility seriously, carefully balancing the long-term financial strength of the Trust with the goal of providing competitive benefit plans, meaningful plan choice, and exceptional service to the Trust's more than 85 participating municipalities.

We're pleased to announce that the overall 2026 Trust renewal rate is 5.8%. For the upcoming year, individual renewal rate actions will range from a minimum **3.3% increase** to a maximum **9% increase.** These results reflect the continued financial strength of the Trust and demonstrate the value of the collaborative purchasing model, particularly in today's healthcare environment.

The 2027 Renewal for Highland is 5.1%.

Enclosed is a detailed renewal calculation worksheet showing how your renewal was determined, including the application of the Trust's renewal banding methodology. Please note that the rate change calculation listed above and the premium rate increases presented in your renewal packet will vary due to the changes made to plan designs for 2027.

Plan Design Changes for 2027

As part of the 2027 renewal process, the Aim Medical Trust Board of Trustees completed a comprehensive review of the Trust's medical plan portfolio. In addition to incorporating IRS-required updates for High Deductible Health Plans (HDHPs), the Board evaluated the overall lineup to ensure the plans continue to provide meaningful choice while maintaining appropriate separation in both plan design and premium. Based on that review, the Board approved several enhancements designed to simplify the Trust's medical plan offerings, improve consistency across plan options, and better meet the evolving needs of participating municipalities.

Key changes for 2027 include:

- **Updated PPO plan lineup.** The current **Primary Care Advantage PPO (Plan 4)** has been discontinued and a new PPO Plan with a new **$3,000 Deductible** has been added. This change simplifies the PPO portfolio while providing an additional higher-deductible PPO option.
- **Standardized PPO office visit copays.** Office visit copays have been standardized across all PPO plans to create a more consistent member experience and simplify plan comparisons.
- **Standardized PPO prescription drug copays.** Prescription drug copays have also been standardized across all PPO plans, providing a consistent pharmacy benefit regardless of the PPO option selected.
- **Updated specialty prescription drug cost sharing.** As part of standardizing the PPO pharmacy benefit, the specialty prescription drug copay has been replaced with **20% coinsurance, up to a maximum of $250 per prescription**. This approach better aligns member cost sharing with the cost of specialty medications while maintaining a predictable maximum out-of-pocket cost.

Continued on Next Page

2027 Final Aim Medical Trust Renewal

aim medical trust
Your Partner for Municipal Health

August 10, 2026

- **Updated High-Deductible Health Plan lineup.** The IRS increased the minimum deductible required for HSA-qualified health plans to **$3,500** for 2027. As part of implementing this required change, the Board took the opportunity to evaluate the Trust's entire HDHP portfolio. The result is a streamlined lineup with clearer distinctions between plan options, creating clearer distinctions between plan options while continuing to meet the needs of participating municipalities.
- **Continued HRA-compatible High Deductible Health Plan.** The Trust will continue to offer an **HRA-compatible HDHP** for employers that prefer an employer-funded Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) rather than an HSA, providing additional flexibility to meet the needs of participating municipalities.

Renewal Information and Key Dates

This renewal packet includes:

- Rate calculation showing the application of the banding formula
- 2027 premium rates for all medical plan options
- 2027 benefit summaries for all Aim Medical Trust benefit options
- 2027 Aim Medical Trust Renewal Decision Tool

The Renewal Decision Tool summarizes all Aim Medical Trust benefit options and is used to document your municipality's final benefit elections for 2027, including medical plans, employee contributions, and employer HSA contributions (if applicable).

Please return your completed Renewal Decision Tool to Audrie Simison no later than September 4, 2026.

If you have questions regarding your renewal, contribution strategy, or the decision tool, the Trust staff and our consulting partners are happy to assist. Don't hesitate to contact Audrie Simison for assistance at asimison@aimindiana.org or 317-237-6200 ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Caroline Shaw

Caroline Shaw
Aim Medical Trust Deputy Director

FOR JANUARY 1, 2027

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Renewal Information

Member Name	**Town of Highland**
Date Joined	January 1, 2010
# months in the Trust by January 1, 2027	204
Member of small group pool?	No
Subject to Market Based Renewal Adjustment (MBRA)?	Yes

For 2027, the required Trust increase is 5.8%

Note that members of the Trust for 18 months or less will receive the required Trust increase.

Explanation of Individual Rate Increase

(A) Calculation of Adjustment for Historical Experience

Calculated using actual vs expected (A/E) claims experience for the 4 year period from CY 2022 - CY 2025
** For small groups, uses actual vs expected claims for entire small group pool*

CY 2022	109.5%
CY 2023	93.6%
CY 2024	94.9%
CY 2025	90.0%
Cumulative Actual vs Expected (2022 - 2025)	96.5%

If a large group has been in the Trust for at least 5 full years (CY 2021 - 2025) and has a Cumulative A/E less than 90%, that group is eligible for an additional adjustment to their renewal.
If a group has received this adjustment within the past 3 years, the group is not eligible for an adjustment the year.

(B) Calculation of MBRA

The MBRA is calculated by solving for the required premium increase so that Projected Premium Income covers the Total Projected Expenses.

Projected Annual Expected Claims for 2027*	$2,577,100
Projected Administrative Costs for 2027**	$183,487
Total Projected Expenses for 2027	$2,760,587
Projected Premium Income from Current Rates	$2,655,248
Highland's MBRA for 2027 is	**4.0%**

** Calculated based on Highland's historical enrollment and claims experience for the 24-month period ending June 30, 2026.*
*** Calculated based on Highland's current enrollment.*

(C) Calculation of Blended Rate Increase

Eligible for Additional Adjustment? No

MBRA Applies? Yes

Weighting:	40% of MBRA is	1.6%
	60% of required Trust increase is	3.5%
	Highland's blended rate increase is***	5.1%

**** Due to rounding, the sum of the individual percentages may not add up to the blended rate increase.*

Limiting Factors: The blended rate increase is restricted to a minimum of 3.3% and a maximum of 9.0%.
Limiting factors do not apply to groups eligible for the additional adjustment

Final blended rate increase for Highland is 5.1%.

8/7/2026

Renewal Rates Effective on January 1, 2027
Town of Highland

aim medical trust

Current 2026 Rates

	Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 3	Plan 4	Plan 5	Plan 6	Plan 7	Plan 8	Plan 9	Plan 10	Plan 11	Plan 12	Plan 13
EE		$ 1,078.89					$ 943.46						
ES		$ 2,157.73					$ 1,886.89						
EC		$ 2,049.87					$ 1,792.57						
Family		$ 3,128.73					$ 2,736.05						

2027 Rates

	Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 3	Plan 4	Plan 5	Plan 6	Plan 7	Plan 8	Plan 9	Plan 10	Plan 11
EE	$ 1,145.25	$ 1,133.91	$ 1,124.04	$ 1,107.26	$ 1,081.07	$ 1,063.83	$ 991.58	$ 952.73	$ 920.42	$ 887.99	$ 927.63
ES	$ 2,290.45	$ 2,267.77	$ 2,248.04	$ 2,214.48	$ 2,162.09	$ 2,127.62	$ 1,983.12	$ 1,905.43	$ 1,840.80	$ 1,775.95	$ 1,855.35
EC	$ 2,175.95	$ 2,154.41	$ 2,135.67	$ 2,103.78	$ 2,054.01	$ 2,021.27	$ 1,883.99	$ 1,810.18	$ 1,748.78	$ 1,667.17	$ 1,762.61
Family	$ 3,321.18	$ 3,288.30	$ 3,259.69	$ 3,211.02	$ 3,135.07	$ 3,085.08	$ 2,875.59	$ 2,762.94	$ 2,669.22	$ 2,575.18	$ 2,690.32

	2026 Rates Highland 2	Enrollment Highland 2	2026 Rates Highland 7	Enrollment Highland 7
EE	$ 1,078.89	25	$ 943.46	22
ES	$ 2,157.73	16	$ 1,886.89	10
EC	$ 2,049.87	7	$ 1,792.57	1
Family	$ 3,128.73	21	$ 2,736.05	14

	2027 Rates Highland 2	Enrollment Highland 2	2027 Rates Highland 7	Enrollment Highland 7
EE	$ 1,133.91	25	$ 991.58	22
ES	$ 2,267.77	16	$ 1,983.12	10
EC	$ 2,154.41	7	$ 1,883.99	1
Family	$ 3,288.30	21	$ 2,875.59	14

Current 2026 premium	$ 2,655,248
Projected 2027 premium	$ 2,790,665
% increase in premium	5.1%

2027 PPO Medical and Prescription Plan Options

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS	$500 PPO Plan 1		$750 PPO Plan 2		$1,000 PPO Plan 3		$1,500 PPO Plan 4		$2,500 PPO Plan 5		$3,000 PPO Plan 6	
UHC Choice Plus Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network
Deductible												
Individual	$500	$1,000	$750	$1,500	$1,000	$2,000	$1,500	$3,000	$2,500	$5,000	$3,000	$6,000
Family	$1,000	$2,000	$1,500	$3,000	$2,000	$4,000	$3,000	$6,000	$5,000	$10,000	$6,000	$12,000
Coinsurance (applied after deductible is met)												
Paid by Insurance	80%	60%	80%	60%	80%	60%	80%	60%	80%	60%	80%	60%
Paid by Individual	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%
Out-of-Pocket Maximum (includes deductible and medical copays)												
Individual	$3,000	$6,000	$3,250	$6,500	$3,500	$7,000	$4,000	$8,000	$5,000	$10,000	$6,000	$12,000
Family	$6,000	$12,000	$6,500	$13,000	$7,000	$14,000	$8,000	$16,000	$10,000	$20,000	$12,000	$24,000
Co-Payments (paid by individual)												
Primary Care Office Visit												
Premium Designated	$15	40%*	$15	40%*	$15	40%*	$15	40%*	$15	40%*	$15	40%*
Non-Premium Designated	$30	40%*	$30	40%*	$30	40%*	$30	40%*	$30	40%*	$30	40%*
Specialist Office Visit												
Premium Designated	$30	40%*	$30	40%*	$30	40%*	$30	40%*	$30	40%*	$30	40%*
Non-Premium Designated	$60	40%*	$60	40%*	$60	40%*	$60	40%*	$60	40%*	$60	40%*
Virtual Visit	$0	Not covered	$0	Not covered	$0	Not covered	$0	Not covered	$0	Not covered	$0	Not covered
Urgent Care	$75	40%*	$75	40%*	$75	40%*	$75	40%*	$75	40%*	$75	40%*
Emergency Room	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250
Inpatient Hospital	20%*	40%*	20%*	40%*	20%*	40%*	20%*	40%*	20%*	40%*	20%*	40%*
Preventive Care												
Preventive Care Services	No Charge	Not Covered	No Charge	Not Covered	No Charge	Not Covered	No Charge	Not Covered	No Charge	Not Covered	No Charge	Not Covered
Prescriptions – paid by individual / copays for 30-day supply shown												
Tier 1	$10	$10	$10	$10	$10	$10	$10	$10	$10	$10	$10	$10
Tier 2	$40	$40	$40	$40	$40	$40	$40	$40	$40	$40	$40	$40
Tier 3	$60	$60	$60	$60	$60	$60	$60	$60	$60	$60	$60	$60
Specialty	20%, max $250	Not Covered	20%, max $250	Not Covered	20%, max $250	Not Covered	20%, max $250	Not Covered	20%, max $250	Not Covered	20%, max $250	Not Covered
Lifetime maximum is unlimited for all plan options.												

Notes:

*After deductible

Medical and prescription copayments accumulate towards the out-of-pocket maximum.

Premium rates are calculated for new municipal members based upon underwriting requirements set forth by the Indiana Department of Insurance.

PP: Premium Provider Designation

Non-PP: Non-Premium Provider Desigration

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2027 HDHP and HRA Medical and Prescription Plan Options

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS	$3,500 HDHP Plan 7		$4,500 HDHP Plan 8		$5,500 HDHP Plan 9		$6,500 HDHP Plan 10		$5,000 HRA Plan 11	
UHC Choice Plus Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network
Deductible										
Individual	$3,500	$7,000	$4,500	$9,000	$5,500	$11,000	$6,500	$13,000	$5,000	$10,000
Family	$7,000	$14,000	$9,000	$18,000	$11,000	$22,000	$13,000	$26,000	$10,000	$20,000
Coinsurance (applied after deductible is met)										
Paid by Insurance	100%	60%	100%	60%	100%	60%	100%	60%	100%	60%
Paid by Individual	0%	40%	0%	40%	0%	40%	0%	40%	0%	40%
Out-of-Pocket Maximum (includes deductible and medical/prescription copays)										
Individual	$3,500	$10,500	$4,500	$13,500	$5,500	$16,500	$6,500	$19,500	$5,000	$12,250
Family	$7,000	$21,000	$9,000	$27,000	$11,000	$33,000	$13,000	$39,000	$10,000	$24,500
Co-Payments (paid by individual)										
Primary Care Office Visit										
Premium Designated	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*
Non-Premium Designated	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*
Specialist Office Visit										
Premium Designated	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*
Non-Premium Designated	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*
Virtual Visit	0%*	Not Covered	0%*	Not Covered	0%*	Not Covered	0%*	Not Covered	0%*	Not Covered
Urgent Care	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*
Emergency Room	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*
Inpatient Hospital	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*	0%*	40%*
Preventive Care										
Preventive Care Services	No Charge	Not Covered	No Charge	Not Covered	No Charge	Not Covered	No Charge	Not Covered	No Charge	Not Covered
Prescriptions – paid by individual / copays for 30-day supply shown										
Tier 1	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	$10	$20
Tier 2	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	$40	$40
Tier 3	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	$60	$60
Specialty	0%*	Not Covered	0%*	Not Covered	0%*	Not Covered	0%*	Not Covered	25%, max $250	Not Covered
Lifetime maximum is unlimited for all plan options.										

Notes:
*After deductible
Medical and prescription copayments accumulate towards the out-of-pocket maximum.
Premium rates are calculated for new municipal members based upon underwriting requirements set forth by the Indiana Department of Insurance.
PP: Premium Provider Designation
Non-PP: Non-Premium Provider Designation

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Dental Plan Options

Delta Dental	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3*	Option 4
Deductible (Single/Family)	$50/$150	$50/$150	$50/$150	$50/$150
Coinsurance (Preventive/Basic/Major/Ortho Services)	100/80/50/50	100/80/50/50	100% Preventative/80% Minor	100/80/50/50
Annual Dental Maximum (per insured)	$1,500	$1,000	$1,000	$3,000
Lifetime Child Ortho Maximum (to age 19)	$1,500	$1,000	Not included	$2,000
Out-of-network	Fee Schedule	Fee Schedule	Fee Schedule	Fee Schedule
Endodontics & Periodontics	Basic	Basic	Not included	Basic
Monthly Premium Rates	Guaranteed from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027			
Employee Only	$28.16	$26.12	$15.13	$32.84
Employee/Spouse	$56.35	$52.23	$30.07	$65.67
Employee/Child(ren)	$76.10	$69.21	$43.29	$88.41
Family	$114.36	$104.46	$64.31	$132.88

Vision Plan Options

VSP Vision Care	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Exam Copay	$10	$15	$10	$10
Materials Copay	$20	$25	$20	$30
Frequency (Exam / Lenses / Frames)	12 / 12 / 24	12 / 24 / 24	12 / 12 / 24*	12 / 12 / 12
Monthly Premium Rates	Guaranteed from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029			
Employee Only	$6.15	$4.59	$7.08	$8.80
Employee/Spouse	$12.33	$9.20	$14.15	$17.66
Employee/Child(ren)	$13.16	$9.82	$15.15	$18.84
Family	$21.05	$15.70	$24.20	$30.15

Notes:
*Dental Option 3 includes coverage for Preventative and Minor services only. Minor services include fillings and crown repair.
*Vision Option 3 includes KidsCare Plan–2 exams and 1 pair of glasses every year.
Dental and vision coverage is available to municipalities participating in the medical plan. Dental and vision coverage can be provided as a contributory, non-contributory or voluntary insurance benefit. The Aim Medical Trust is a multiple employer welfare arrangement. The multiple employer welfare arrangement may not be subject to all of the insurance laws and regulations of Indiana. State insurance guaranty funds are not available for the Aim Medical Trust.

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Basic Life and AD&D Plan Options

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS	Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 3	Plan 4
Life Benefit	$25,000	$50,000	1 x Basic Annual Earnings to $50,000 Max	2 x Basic Annual Earnings to $100,000 Max
AD&D Benefit	$25,000	$50,000	1 x Basic Annual Earnings to $50,000 Max	2 x Basic Annual Earnings to $100,000 Max
Age Reduction Schedule				
	35% @ 65	35% @ 65	35% @ 65	35% @ 65
	50% @ 70	50% @ 70	50% @ 70	50% @ 70
	65% @ 75	65% @ 75	65% @ 75	65% @ 75
	Terminate @ retirement	Terminate @ retirement	Terminate @ retirement	Terminate @ retirement
Guaranteed Issue	$25,000	$50,000	$50,000	$100,000
Dependent Life: Spouse / Child(ren)				
Option 1	$2,500 / $2,500	$2,500 / $2,500	$2,500 / $2,500	$2,500 / $2,500
Option 2	$10,000 / $10,000	$10,000 / $10,000	$10,000 / $10,000	$10,000 / $10,000
Employee Contributions	Non-contributory	Non-contributory	Non-contributory	Non-contributory
Minimum Participation	100%	100%	100%	100%
Premium Rates (Guaranteed from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028)				
Life Rate per $1,000 of Benefit	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100
AD&D Rate per $1,000 of Benefit	$0.020	$0.020	$0.020	$0.020
Monthly Premium Per Person	$3.00 per month	$6.00 per month	Based on Earnings	Based on earnings
Dependent Life Rate per Family Unit				
Option 1	$1.50	$1.50	$1.50	$1.50
Dependent Life Rate per Family Unit				
Option 2	$6.00	$6.00	$6.00	$6.00

Notes:
*Life plan offers Value Added Features such as: Accelerated Life Benefits, Life Conversion and Portability, and an additional Line of Duty Benefit for Public Safety Members (additional 100% of AD&D benefit if loss is suffered in line of duty)

Plans offered by American United Life Insurance Company (AUL) a OneAmerica® Company: AA- Standard and Poor Rating

The Aim Medical Trust is a multiple employer welfare arrangement. The multiple employer welfare arrangement may not be subject to all of the insurance laws and regulations of Indiana. State insurance guaranty funds are not available for the Aim Medical Trust.

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Voluntary Life and AD&D Coverage

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS	Voluntary Life/AD&D Coverage
Employee Schedule of Benefits	
Benefit Options	Coverage in increments of $10,000
Maximum Benefit	$500,000, not to exceed 8x annual earnings
Guaranteed Issue Amount	$250,000
AD&D Benefit	Matches Life Benefit
Age Reduction Schedule	50% @ 70 65% @ 75 Terminates at Retirement
Spouse Schedule of Benefits	
Benefit Options	Coverage in increments of $5,000
Maximum Benefit	$250,000
Guaranteed Issue Amount	$50,000
AD&D Benefit	Matches Life Benefit
Age Reduction Schedule	50% @ 70 65% @ 75 Terminates at Retirement
Child(ren) Schedule of Benefits	
Benefit Options	$10,000 Benefit
Guaranteed Issue Amount	Full Benefit
AD&D Benefit	Matches Life Benefit

Voluntary Life/AD&D Monthly Premium Rates (Guaranteed from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028)

Employee and Spouse Coverage

Age Bands	Rate Per $1,000 Benefit for Life/AD&D Combined
0 – 24	$0.155
25 – 29	$0.155
30 – 34	$0.166
35 – 39	$0.195
40 – 44	$0.243
45 – 49	$0.355
50 – 54	$0.534
55 – 59	$0.831
60 – 64	$1.049
65 – 69	$1.469
70+	$3.813

Child(ren) Coverage *(to age 26)*

$0.23 (one rate covers all children in a family)

- Employee must elect coverage to purchase spouse or dependent coverage
- Spouse elected amount may not exceed 100% of the employee elected amount
- Members Basic Life benefits plus Voluntary Life benefits may not exceed 8 times annual earnings
- Dependent Child Coverage extends from live birth to age 26

Notes:

Municipality must elect Basic Life/AD&D coverage with One America to purchase Voluntary Life/AD&D

When first eligible for coverage, all members may select coverage up to the guaranteed issue amount without submitting evidence of insurability. Each year all enrolled employees and spouses may increase their benefit amount by up to two increments of coverage, including amounts above the guaranteed issue, up to the plan maximum, without providing evidence of insurability.

Coverage includes Conversion, Portability, Accelerated Death Benefit

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Short-Term Disability Coverage

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS	Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 3	Plan 4
Employee Contributions	Employer Paid	Employer Paid	Employer Paid	Employer Paid
Schedule of Benefits				
Benefit Percentage	66.67%	66.67%	66.67%	66.67%
Maximum Weekly Benefit	$350	$750	$1,000	$1,500
Benefit Waiting Period – Accident	7 Days	7 Days	7 Days	7 Days
Benefit Waiting Period – Sickness	7 Days	7 Days	7 Days	7 Days
Maximum Benefit Period	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days
Definition of Earnings	Base salary, excluding commissions, bonuses, and overtime	Base salary, excluding commissions, bonuses, and overtime	Base salary, excluding commissions, bonuses, and overtime	Base salary, excluding commissions, bonuses, and overtime
Pre-existing Condition Limitation	None	None	None	None
Maternity	Covered the same as any other illness	Covered the same as any other illness	Covered the same as any other illness	Covered the same as any other illness
Premium Rates (Guaranteed from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028)				
STD Rate per $10 of Weekly Benefit	$0.253	$0.253	$0.253	$0.253

- Coverage is non-occupational covering disabilities occurring off the job
- STD benefits may be reduced by deductible income. State Disability and/or Own Medical Leave Benefits under Paid Family Medical Leave Laws are considered deductible income.
- Coverage is employer-paid; STD benefits are taxable

Notes:
Plans offered by American United Life Insurance Company (AUL) a OneAmerica® Company. AA- Standard and Poor Rating

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Long-Term Disability Coverage

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS	Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 3	Plan 4
Employee Contributions	Employer Paid	Employer Paid	Employer Paid	Employer Paid
Schedule of Benefits				
Benefit Percentage	60%	60%	60%	60%
Maximum Monthly Benefit	$3,000	$4,000	$5,000	$7,500
Benefit Waiting Period	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days
Maximum Benefit Period	To SSNRA	To SSNRA	To SSNRA	To SSNRA
Own Occupation Period	24 Months	24 Months	24 Months	24 Months
Definition of Earnings	Base salary, excluding commissions, bonuses, and overtime	Base salary, excluding commissions, bonuses, and overtime	Base salary, excluding commissions, bonuses, and overtime	Base salary, excluding commissions, bonuses, and overtime
Pre-existing Conditions Limitation	3 / 12	3 / 12	3 / 12	3 / 12
Mental/Nervous, Substance Abuse Limitation	24 Months	24 Months	24 Months	24 Months
Premium Rates (Guaranteed from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028)				
LTD Rate per $100 Covered Monthly Earnings	$0.270	$0.270	$0.270	$0.270

- LTD benefits may be reduced by deductible income. Worker's compensation and primary/dependent Social Security benefits are considered deductible income
- Includes a survivors benefit that pays a lump sum equal to three times the LTD benefit
- Coverage includes a $5,000 Reasonable Accommodation Expense Benefit, which reimburses employers for workplace modifications that enable employees to return to work or remain at work. The Reasonable Accommodation Expense Benefit is separate from the LTD claim payment.

Notes:

Plans offered by American United Life Insurance Company (AUL) a OneAmerica© Company: AA- Standard and Poor Rating

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3. **Enactment 2026-23:** An Enactment Expressing a Finding and Determination an Emergency Exists and Declaring a Local Disaster Emergency.

Councilor Scheeringa introduced and moved for the consideration of Enactment No. 2026-23 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Turich seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The enactment could be considered at the same meeting of its introduction.

Councilor Scheeringa moved for the passage adoption of Enactment No. 2026-23 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Turich seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a two-thirds vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no (0) negatives. The motion passed. The enactment was passed and adopted upon the signature of the municipal executive at the same meeting of its introduction.

THE TOWN of HIGHLAND
PROCLAMATION of the MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE NO. 2026-23

FINDING AND DETERMINATION AN EMERGENCY EXISTS AND DECLARING A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY

Whereas, From time to time circumstances exist such that an exigency occurs that could not reasonably be foreseen and that threatens the public health, welfare, or safety and requires immediate action; and

Whereas, The Town of Highland experienced a major storm event on August 11, 2026 featuring thunderstorms, which spawned an EFI tornado, strong winds and heavy rains that caused flooding, downed and uprooted trees, downed power lines, and property damage across wide paths of the Town; and

Whereas, The Governor of the State of Indiana have issued emergency declarations in consequence of a major storm event on August 11, 2026 featuring thunderstorms, which spawned an EF1 tornado, strong winds and heavy rains that caused flooding, downed and uprooted trees, downed power lines and property damage; and

Whereas, As a result of the recent storm damage, it is imperative that emergency management, law enforcement, and other government officials be empowered with the authority to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the safety of the public is maintained; and

Whereas, Indiana Code 10-14-3-29 (a)(1) provides that a local disaster emergency may be declared by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision; and

Whereas, The Town of Highland, through its Town Council President, as the principal executive officer, now desires to issue a finding and determination that an emergency exists sufficient to support the declaration of a ***Local Disaster Emergency***, all pursuant to IC 10-14-3-29;

Now Therefore pursuant to IC 10-14-3-29 be it hereby Proclaimed and Declared by the Town Council President of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana as follows:

Section 1. That pursuant to IC 10-14-3-29, there now exists a local disaster emergency in the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, requiring that measures be taken to address the weather emergency and danger to the public, including clearing roads and neighborhoods of debris, downed and uprooted trees, removing storm-damaged structures which pose an unacceptable risk to the public, and other reasonable measures. This local disaster emergency declaration shall remain in effect until the emergency has been abated, or to be continued for a period not to exceed seven (7) days from the date of its entry, except by the consent of the Town Council as the governing body of the Town of Highland;

Section 2. That this declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly in the office of the Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Highland;

Section 3. That the effect of this declaration of a local disaster emergency is to: (1) activate the response and recovery aspects of all applicable local or inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans, and (2) authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under the plans;

Section 4. That the public health, welfare, or safety is in immediate danger such that requires the expenditure of money in the Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund, provided such expenditure shall be for purposes to protect the public health, welfare, or safety in this emergency situation that demands immediate action, all pursuant to Section 3.45.140 (B)(1) of the Municipal Code and IC 36-9-15.5-8(c).

Be it so Proclaimed, Declared and Ordered pursuant to and under the authority of Highland Municipal Code Section 3.45.140 (B)(1) and IC 10-14-3-29. Entered this 24th day of August 2026 by the Town Council President of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana. Filed with the Clerk-Treasurer on 11thh day of August, 2026 at 9:00 o'clock p.m.

TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA

By its Town Council President

George Georgeff, President

Attest:

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

TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA
DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY

August 11, 2026

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2026, the Town of Highland, Indiana, experienced a severe storm event that caused significant damage throughout the community, including downed trees, debris, damaged infrastructure, hazardous road conditions, power-related hazards, and other threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the extent of the storm damage has required a substantial response from the Highland Police Department, Highland Fire Department, Public Works Department, other Town personnel, elected officials, utility providers, and other emergency resources; and

WHEREAS, hazardous conditions continue to exist throughout the Town, and unnecessary travel may interfere with emergency response, damage assessment, debris removal, utility restoration, and other recovery operations; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 10-14-3-29 authorizes the principal executive officer of a political subdivision to declare a local disaster emergency when conditions warrant such action;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE GEORGEFF, PRESIDENT OF THE HIGHLAND TOWN COUNCIL AND PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY EXISTS WITHIN THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

This declaration shall:

1. Activate all applicable emergency response and recovery plans and authorize the use of available Town personnel, equipment, resources, and mutual aid necessary to protect life and property and respond to the effects of this emergency.
2. Authorize Town departments and officials to take all lawful and necessary actions to respond to the emergency, assess damage, clear roadways, restore essential services, protect public infrastructure, and assist affected residents.
3. Strongly urge all residents and visitors to avoid unnecessary travel throughout the Town of Highland so that emergency responders, Public Works crews, utility personnel, and other essential workers may safely perform their duties.
4. Direct residents requiring immediate police, fire, or emergency medical assistance to call 911.
5. Request the cooperation and assistance of Lake County, the State of Indiana, utility providers, neighboring jurisdictions, and other public or private entities as may be necessary during response and recovery operations.

This Local Disaster Emergency Declaration shall remain in effect for a period not to exceed seven (7) days unless terminated earlier or continued or renewed in accordance with Indiana law.

This Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be promptly filed with the Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Highland.

DECLARED this 11th day of August, 2026.

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

ATTEST:

Mark Herak, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Highland, Indiana

TOWN OF HIGHLAND INCORPORATED SEAL 1910 INDIANA

4. **Enactment 2026-24:** An Enactment Expressing a Finding and Determination that an Emergency Continues to Exist and Affirming the Town Executive's Proclamation 2026-23 Declaring a Local Disaster Emergency, Granting a Time extension and Conferring Special Authority on the Municipal Executive of the Town of Highland

Councilor Robertson introduced and moved for the consideration of Enactment No. 2026-24 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The enactment could be considered at the same meeting of its introduction.

Councilor Robertson moved for the passage adoption of Enactment No. 2026-24 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a two-thirds vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no (0) negatives. The motion passed. The enactment was passed and adopted upon the signature of the municipal executive at the same meeting of its introduction.

Town of Highland
Enactment No. 2026-24

AN ENACTMENT EXPRESSING A FINDING AND DETERMINATION THAT AN EMERGENCY CONTINUES TO EXIST AND AFFIRMING THE TOWN EXECUTIVE'S PROCLAMATION **2026-23** DECLARING A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY, GRANTING A TIME EXTENSION AND CONFERRING SPECIAL AUTHORITY ON THE MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND.

Whereas, From time to time circumstances exist such that an exigency occurs that could not reasonably be foreseen and that threatens the public health, welfare, or safety and requires immediate action; and

Whereas, The Governor of the State of Indiana have issued emergency declarations in consequence of a major storm event on August 11, 2026 featuring thunderstorms, which spawned an EF1 tornado, strong winds and heavy rains that caused flooding, downed and uprooted trees, downed power lines and property damage; and

Whereas, It is of vital public interest that continuity of government operations be preserved and supported during the state and local responses to the current exigency;

Whereas, It is noted that the Town of Highland, through its Town Council President, as the principal executive officer did issue a finding and determination that an emergency exists sufficient to support the declaration of a ***Local Disaster Emergency***, Styled as Emergency Proclamation No. 2026-23, all pursuant to IC 10-14-3-29;

Whereas, In order to allow the lawful readiness of response and action by the public resources of the Town of Highland, the Town Council President, as municipal executive, should be expressly granted such authority to act for the town, in the interest of administrative efficiency and where the public good requires it, the Highland Town Council desires to authorize and extend further certain emergency powers consistent with IC 10-14-3-29;

Now Therefore be it hereby Enacted by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana as follows:

Section 1. That the Town Council President, pursuant to IC 10-14-3-29, did issue a proclamation stating, that there now exists a local disaster emergency in the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, to be continued for a period not to exceed seven (7) days from the date of its entry, except by the consent of the Town Council as the governing body of the Town of Highland;

Section 2. That subject to law, that this enactment serves as approval of the governing body that it grants the Town Council President authority to act during the local exigency for five (5) additional periods of authority, extending the period by forty-two (42) days, which shall end on September 23, after which, such authority will require action by the Town Council as the legislative body of the municipality;

Section 3. That the effect of this enactment is affirm and to confer such powers that are granted a municipal executive under IC 36-4 et seq and IC 36-5 et sequitur, except the authority to dismiss or demote a public officer acting as a department head, and the procedure affecting the adoption of ordinances or resolutions of the municipality;

Section 4. That the tolling for the extension of authority under this enactment shall begin upon the expiration of the existing authority, upon the passage and adoption of the enactment;

Section 5. That the Clerk-Treasurer shall inform the Town Council as to the duration of approved authority remaining as conferred by this enactment.

Introduced and Filed on the 24h Day of August 2026. Consideration on the same day or at same meeting of introduction sustained a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed, pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED AND ADOPTED this 24th Day of August 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 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)

5. **Ordinance No. 1856:** An Ordinance to Waive Building Permit Fees for activities undertaken in consequence of the Storm Event of August 11, 2026.

Councilor Turich introduced and moved the consideration of Ordinance No. 1856 at the same meeting of introduction. Councilor Scheeringa seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance could be considered at the same meeting of introduction.

Councilor Turich moved the passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 1856 at the same meeting of introduction. Councilor Scheeringa seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a two-thirds vote being necessary, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was adopted at the same meeting of introduction.

ORDINANCE No. 1856
of the
TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING PERMIT FEES FOR RESTORING STRUCTURES DAMAGED BY THE August 11 2026 STORM EVENT

WHEREAS, IC 36-1-3-2 and IC 36-1-3-6(b)(1) confer upon local units of government the powers that they need for the effective operation of government as to local affairs and prescribe the manner and form of enactment for any such exercise of power;

WHEREAS, Thunderstorms and heavy rains, which spawned an EF tornado swept through Lake County on August 11, 2026 that resulted in damage to personal property and structures within the Town of Highland;

WHEREAS, A state of disaster emergency was declared by Chief Executive Officers of the Town of Highland, Lake County and the State of Indiana;

WHEREAS, The Town Council desires to provide financial assistance to homeowners who will be incurring costs to restore their damaged structures.

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

Section 1. The Building Commissioner is hereby authorized and directed to waive or refund building permit fees, that would apply to restoring structures damaged by the August 11 2026 storm event only but not electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and any other miscellaneous permit and inspection fees established by Chapter 210 Title 21 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Highland.

Section 2. Waiver or refund of said fees are subject to submittal of documentation (signed itemized Insurance Company contract with the respective property owner for repairs), submitted by a Contractor licensed with the Town of Highland.

Section 3. 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). This ordinance shall remain in effect until **December 1, 2026** or until amended by the Town Council.

Section 4. This ordinance amends only that section that pertains to building permits to restoring structures damaged by the August 11 2026 storm event only and not electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and any other miscellaneous permit and inspection fees established by Chapter 210 Title 21 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Highland. In all other respects, the provisions of Chapter 210 Title 21 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Highland remain in full force and effect.

Introduced and Filed on the 24th day of August 2026. Consideration on the same day at same meeting of introduction was approved, attaining a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed, pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED and **ADOPTED** this 24th Day of August 2026 by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of HIGHLAND,
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

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

ATTEST:

Mark Herak, Clerk-Treasurer (IC 33-16-4-1; IC 36-5-6-5)

6. **Enactment 2026-32:** An Order for the Temporary Waiver of Late Charges by the Municipal Utilities and for a Temporary Moratorium on the Suspension of Water Services or Shut-offs to Enforce Payment.

Councilor Scheeringa introduced and moved for the consideration of Enactment No. 2026-32 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Turich seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The enactment could be considered at the same meeting of its introduction.

Councilor Scheeringa moved for the passage adoption of Enactment No. 2026-32 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Turich seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a two-thirds vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no (0) negatives. The motion passed. The enactment was passed and adopted upon the signature of the municipal executive at the same meeting of its introduction.

THE TOWN of HIGHLAND
ORDER of the MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE NO. 2026-32

An Order for the Temporary Waiver of Late charges by the Municipal Utilities and for a Temporary Moratorium on the suspension of Water Services or Shut-offs to Enforce Payment

Whereas, The President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Indiana have issued emergency declarations in consequence of the thunderstorms and heavy rains, which spawned an EF tornado swept through Lake County on August 11, 2026;

Whereas, The Town of Highland, through its Town Council President, as the principal executive officer did to issue a finding and determination that an emergency exists sufficient to support the declaration of a ***Local Disaster Emergency***, all pursuant to IC 10-14-3-29 and on April 11, 2026 did issue Proclamation of the Municipal Executive No. 2026-23;

Whereas, The Town Council, as Legislative Body, in order to allow the "*lawful alacrity of response and action of public resources*" clarified the executive powers of the Town Council President and extended his executive proclamation for a sufficient period of days, which *such period will expire on September 23*, unless otherwise extended by the Town council as the legislative body of the Town;

Whereas, Section 3 of Executive Proclamation 2026-23 provides the Town Council President with the authority to furnish aid and assistance under disaster plans; and,

Whereas, The Town of Highland through its Town Council President has determined that non-essential travel, persons may experience reduction in or elimination of work, now desires to issue an order to bring temporary relief for a time certain owing to the circumstances as herein described, pursuant to lawful authority previously conferred,

Now Therefore Be it hereby Ordered by the Town Council President of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana as follows:

Section 1. That pursuant to Indiana Governor Executive Order 26-21 that the effective date of this order for services incurred or accrued on August 11 and thereafter for a period ending on **September 10, 2026,** that enforced cessation of water service or shut offs shall be suspended and not carried out by the municipality or its utilities;

Section 2. That effective from the date of this order for services incurred or accrued on August 11 and thereafter for a period ending on **September 23, 2026**, no delinquency or penalties shall be charged on services provided by the utilities, except that fees shall still be subject to the procedures set forth in IC 36-9-25-11-(g);

Section 3. That, as before, nothing in this order shall be construed to relieve utility customers of their obligation to pay their monthly user charges, or for charges accrued during the period covered by this and the prior Municipal Executive Order 2026-23, or to comply with ordinances, rules and regulations of the municipal utilities;

Section 4. That any actions described in this order but carried out prior to its execution, are hereby ratified and affirmed pursuant to IC 36-1-4-16

Section 5 That the Public Works Director and the Clerk-Treasurer are hereby directed to carry-out, execute, and honor the purposes and objects of this order in performing their usual duties outlined in Title 12 of the Highland Municipal Code;

Introduced and Filed on the 24th day of August 2026. Consideration on the same day at same meeting of introduction was approved, attaining a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed, pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED and **ADOPTED** this 24th Day of August 2026 by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

BE IT SO ORDERED pursuant to and under the authority of Proclamation of the Municipal Executive No. 2026-23, further pursuant to IC 10-14-3-29 and Enactment No. 2026-24. Entered this 24th day of August 2026 by the Town Council President of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana.

TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA

By its Town Council President

George Georgeff, President

Attest:

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

7. **Works Board Order No. 2026-20**: An Order Approving and Authorizing the First Change Order to the Construction Contract with Milestone Contractors North related to the FY 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Councilor Black moved the passage and adoption of Works Board Order No. 2026-20. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The order was adopted.

TOWN OF HIGHLAND
BOARD OF WORKS
ORDER OF THE WORKS BOARD NO. 2026-20

AN ORDER AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FIRST CHANGE ORDER TO THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH MILESTONE CONTRACTORS NORTH RELATED TO THE FY2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

Whereas, The Town of Highland, through its Town Council, which is the Works Board of the Municipality pursuant to I.C. 36-1-2-24(3), has determined that a need exists to remove and replace sidewalk curb ramps to ADA standards in various locations in the Town of Highland that are planned for street resurfacing later in 2026 and have hereto approved a project to be described as the FY2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project (Project); and

Whereas, The Town of Highland has procured a Community Development Block Grant, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through an application filing with the Lake County Community Development Department in the amount of $102,997.00, which will offset the costs for the roadway improvements described herein; and

Whereas, on March 9, 2026, the Town Council of the Town of Highland, acting as the Board of Works, adopted Order of the Works Board No. 2026-06, awarding the Project to Milestone Contractors North, Inc. in the amount of One Hundred Forty-one Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-eight Dollars and No Cents ($141,328.00); and

Whereas, during the course of construction of the project, it has become necessary to change or alter the original specifications of the work and/or to increase or decrease the planned material quantities; and

Whereas, NIES Engineering, Inc., a licensed engineer performing construction engineering services on this project, has specifically identified and presented Change Order No. 1, attached herewith, which details the changes and alterations to the work which have a net decrease in the total contract amount of Seven Hundred Eighty-two Dollars and Ten Cents ($782.10); and

Whereas, The Town of Highland, through its Board of Works, now desires to approve and authorize the Change Order as described; and

Now, Therefore Be it Resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That the First Addendum to the Construction Contract with Milestone Contractors North, Inc. for the FY2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project, as prepared by NIES Engineering, Incorporated, a licensed engineer performing construction engineering services on the project, is hereby determined to be directly related to the original contract and is hereby approved, adopted, and ratified in each and every respect;

Section 2. That this addendum is hereby ordered to be known as Change Order No. 1, issued to decrease net changes to the original agreement in the amount of Seven Hundred Eighty-two Dollars and Ten Cents ($782.10), bringing the total value of the entire agreement with any and all change orders approved to date to One Hundred Forty Thousand, Five Hundred Forty-five Dollars and Ninety Cents ($140,545.90); and

Section 3. That the Public Works Director is hereby authorized to execute the necessary documents with his signatures.

Duly Adopted, Resolved and Ordered by the Board of Works of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, this 24th day of August, 2026. Having been passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

BOARD OF WORKS OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA

George Georgeff, President

Attest:

____

Mark Herak, Clerk-Treasurer

8. **Resolution No. 2026-30:** A Resolution ratifying and approving Addendum 1, an emergency extension and modification of the Town's Debris removal contract from $500,000 to $1,000,000.

Councilor Turich moved the passage and adoption of Resolution No. 2026-30. Councilor Scheeringa seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) aaffirmatives, no negatives. The motion passed. The resolution was adopted pending the signature of the municipal executive.

EMERGENCY DISASTER DEBRIS REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL SERVICES AGREEMENT-ADDENDUM 1

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 $500,000.00 not to exceed amount in Article 3 – Compensation of the original agreement is amended to $1,000,000.00

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

OWNER:

Town of Highland, Indiana

By: [signature]

Print: GEORGE GEORGEFF
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Date: 8-22-2026

LOOKS GREAT SERVICES OF MS, INC.

By: [signature]

Print: Sean Hunt

Date: 08/22/2026

1

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of HIGHLAND
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-30

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 22, 2026, extending the additional compensation not to exceed $500,000, resulting in an aggregate contract maximum not to exceed $1,000,000; 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 $1,000,000, and the aggregate maximum compensation payable under the Original Contract, as amended, shall not exceed $1,000,000.

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 24th day of August, 2026, having been passed by a vote of five (5) in favor and a0 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

9. Resolution No. 2026-31: A Resolution ratifying and approving Addendum 2, an emergency extension and modification of the Town's Debris removal contract from $1,000,000 to $2,300,000.

Councilor Scheeringa moved the passage and adoption of Resolution No. 2026-31. Councilor Robertson 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.

EMERGENCY DISASTER DEBRIS REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL SERVICES AGREEMENT-ADDENDUM 2

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 $1,000,000.00 not to exceed amount in Addendum 1 is amended to $2,300,000.00

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

OWNER:

Town of Highland, Indiana

By: [signature]

Print: GEORGE GEORGEFF

Date: 8-27-26

LOOKS GREAT SERVICES OF MS, INC.

By: [signature]

Print: Sean Hunt

Date: 08/27/2026

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of HIGHLAND
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-31

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, 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 $1,000,000, and the aggregate maximum compensation payable under the Original Contract, as amended, shall not exceed $2,300,000.

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 24th day of August, 2026, having been passed by a vote of five (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

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 he want to echo George's sentiments and commend the effort and the leadership of this group and the efforts of our employees. It was tremendous. He said he also wanted to thank the residents, as he saw so many residents lending hands to each other, whether it was lifting and moving branches or running extension cords from generators to their neighbors house. He said we came through it as a community. He said it was nice to see the power come back on and seeing all of the kids on his block running around again.

Councilor Turich then acknowledged Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta, who said, the call volume increased the days after the storm, which was expected. He said they are kind of winding down now and getting back to normal. He said there was a lot of concern about thefts from residences, namely generators. He said we didn't have any in Highland. He said another concern was business and residential burglaries. He said Highland dodged that as well. He said we didn't have one reports of a residential burglary. He said we did have a burglary to one of our car dealerships over the weekend. He said it ended up being a known subject. Employees of the dealership caught him on scene, so he was arrested and charged. He said they conducted nightly patrols of the neighborhoods, which he felt helped a lot. He said they are starting to pull back but the midnight guys will continue to patrol the neighborhoods.

Councilor Turich then acknowledged Building Commissioner Ken Mika who gave the following report:

8/24/26 HIGHLAND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING / BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

- **The BZA has canceled this Wednesday's meeting due to no Business before them.**
- **The PC was able to have their Public Hearing pertaining to the Comprehensive Plan last Wednesday. By a vote of 4 – 0 the Commission voted to send a Favorable Recommendation to the Town Council for consideration of Adoption of the Plan. The Council will receive certification of action on this within the next couple of weeks to proceed with action on this matter.**
- **Mr Mika any questions pertaining to Building Dept. matters concerning the Storm Damage on 8/11/26.**

Ken Mika
Ken Mika
Town of Highland
Building Commissioner / Zoning Administrator

Councilor Turich then recognized Ben Tomera, who was recently hired to handle the social media for the Town. Councilor Turich said the effort that Ben has put in these last two (2) weeks has been amazing. All of the updates and everything that came through this Council and the postings that he made, taking that information and organizing it the way he did. He said he couldn't be happier as a group. Tremendous job, so thank you, Ben.

- **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 echoing the comments of Councilors Georgeff and Turich giving a big thank you to the residents as there is a lot of kindness out there. He said people donating thing, like their time, helping out their neighbors where they could. He said it was beautiful thing to see, especially with all this tragedy around us. And definitely a huge shout out again to the employees, especially dealing with the power outages at home, putting in all the hours. Both Chiefs put in a ton of hours, Mindi was out there cooking for the residents and gathering donations. Maria, you were on vacation when the storm hit but when you returned only to find that you were without power.

Councilor Robertson then acknowledged Public Works Director Knesek who reported that since the storm, public works crews have moved 2,000 loads of debris to the landfill. Grimmer Construction crews did a thousand loads with their trucks. He said their trucks were twice the size of our trucks. He said Looks Great Services moved 35,000 cubic yards of debris. They've also removed 105 trees and cut down 657 hanging limbs. He said this weekend, they worked the school bus stops, cleaning them all up so the kids can start school tomorrow. He said it seems as once they clean one area and starting to look pretty good, the residents put out more stuff. He has been assessing concrete damage caused by the storm, namely sidewalks raised because of uprooted trees. He said he is halfway through and he already has 100 locations. He said garbage pickup is tomorrow and is back to normal. He said to date, residents have reported over 140 missing garbage cans. He said Republic will replace but it is going to take some time.

Councilor Robertson acknowledged Fire Chief Glenn Schlesser who described Tuesday's storm as a generational storm. The winds were clocked at 119 miles per hour. The experts we're calling it a Category 2 inland hurricane. It was in the town for approximately 20 minutes. He said there is not a single street in this town that was not affected by this storm. He said it was truly town-wide. He said for the 7 days following the storm, they ran 311 call for service for the fire department. He said that put their yearly total somewhere over 800. He said on an average, they run 600 to 700 calls a year. He said there was one structural fine during this time, which was caused by a down power line. He said there were 6 to 8 free-flowing gas calls or lines that were ripped out of the ground. Response was extremely difficult, obviously, due to all the tree damage. He commended the Federal and state agencies, who have been active throughout the community, getting those resources in. He reminded residents that GoServ is stationed at the south fire station if you need assistance. He said carbon dioxide was also a huge incident for us. We often say that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives and these last 13 days are living proof of that. We would have had a significant number of tragic outcomes had it not been for home carbon monoxide detectors. A lot of houses which were using portable generators and were not properly placed, had deadly levels when we entered those homes. He described an electrical incident at the Central Fire Station that caused a power outage for several days. Some of the electronics were damaged.

- **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 said he doesn't think enough can be said thanking our residents and department heads and our employees on how they handled this incident. He said they've really stepped up and showed what Highland is really all about and that's Highland Strong. He too thanked Ben Tomera who made communicating so much easier and so much more thorough. He said that was a big help for the Council.

Councilor Black acknowledged Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra who said she has not much to report since the last meeting. She did ask the residents to support their local businesses as they too suffered with power outages, as did their employees when they couldn't work. She reminded everyone of the big crawl tomorrow night. She read from a list the various restaurants who were participating , as well as, 13 craft vendors. She said there will be live music and picnic table set up.

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

Councilor Scheeringa echoed the comments of the other Councilors. He said his Mom doesn't live far from Public Works Director and they only got their power back on Sunday. He said there's a lot of our employees took a lot of time away from their families, neglecting their own homes during this disaster. They did an outstanding job. Kudos to all. He also thanked Ben Tomera, Attorney General Todd Rokita, State Senator Mike Andrade, Congressman Frank Mrvan. He said everyone worked together. He said even the School Town worked well with us.

Councilor Scheeringa acknowledged Mindi Ray, the Parks and Recreation Superintendent who said the Parks Department shifted to community support and departmental support, in this crisis. She said she was able to secure donations to assist our departments through the essential operations and to offer Lincoln Community Center as a nourishment center, along with showers and powering centers. She said they hosted two communal feeds, throughout the event, and hosted the NIPSCO feed that happened at the Lincoln Center. She said they are slowly but surely opening those park spaces as they're being assessed, at this time. She said some of our park spaces are open while others remain closed until they can be assessed. The parks that are open are Pettit, White Oak, JC, Little Turtle, Fletcher, Orchard, Brantwood and Terrrace Estates. She said Meadows Parks remain closed until the assessment can be performed, as Meadows was the most heavily damaged. She asked for the public to be patient. She said they has a volunteer list at the Lincoln Center if anyone want to volunteer.

Councilor Scheeringa then acknowledged IT Director Ed Dabrowski who said it was great seeing neighbors helping other neighbors. He said the storm that hit us was very wide spread and knocked out the grid and the whole internet, including the wire grid. He said all suffered. He said Highland was out of internet for a week on average. Some departments came up and went down again. He said some departments didn't lose poser. He said the only reliable service was cellar. He complimented the Verizon salesperson, who 1 day after the disaster, sent 12 jetpacks the following morning. He said he distributed them to the various department throughout town. Unfortunately, some of the departments had unique needs and couldn't utilize them. He said the Clerk's office could utilize them and the phone systems, when into voice mail but didn't go down like Munster and Griffith. For the first hours after the storm, PD and Town Hall were still active but eventually lost power but the generator immediately kicked on. The internet worked for a while because of the batteries on the pole but eventually the batteries quit working. He said people were saying that AT&T fiber was worked throughout and that was not the case.

• **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 said he would like to commend our Town Employees, all of them, that put the efforts in over the last 14 days. A lot of time spent away from their home, their families while their homes were damaged during the storm. He said he really like to say thank you to everyone, our department heads and all of our employees for all the efforts that they put forth. He said on another note, after the storm, he ran into a resident that had a couple of trees on his roof. He said he found out that that resident had been charged over $40,000 to remove those trees. When Attorney General Rokita was in town last week, he spoke to him about the charges which he thought were quite high and Attorney Rokita agreed with him. He asked George to send a copy of the contract that the homeowner signed, which he did last week. As George was driving by the homeowner waved him down. He stopped and lo and behold, there was gentleman there from the Attorney General's office. He was the investigator speaking with the homeowner and they were going through the fees, so I'm really appreciative that our Attorney General thought it was also and fit to send an investigator down to see if our resident was overcharged. He then asked Public Works Director about the duel 20" water lines that will be replacing the existing water lines that keep breaking. Mr. Knesek said he gave Grimmer Construction the notice to proceed.

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:

Scott Houldieson, Highland, said he wanted to say what a really terrific job everyone did pulling together during the most recent storm event. He said he does think the Town needs to assess where we go from here because he doesn't think this is going to be a once-in-a-lifetime event. We've seen four storms this summer that have caused significant damage, maybe not necessarily in Highland but throughout Northwest Indiana. The storms seem to be coming more frequent and we need to be better prepared moving forward. I think we need to learn the lessons from this storm and carry those forward. He said he doesn't have the answers for what those lessons are but I think we need to be studying that and I'm sure you all will. He again emphasized everybody pulling together.

Terry Steagall, Highland, said with the devastating effect of the storms and SEA1 has on Lake County, to make up for the short fall, the County should consider creating a barrel tax. BP has the capacity to produce 440,000 barrels a day. If a $1 tax per barrel was implemented, the county budget shortfall would be resolved. He said he spoke with County Council President Christine Cid about his proposal and she is considering it. He said it is going to take the help of both sides of the aisle to get it passed down state.

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 12, 2026 through August 25, 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. 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 12, 2026 – August 25, 2026 in the amount of **$1,055,017.41**

General Fund, $273,616.27; **MVH Fund**, $3,129.62; **LR&S**, $11,307.99; **MVH Restricted**, $21,74.50; **Law Enforcement Continuing Ed**, $396.00; **Public Safety Income**, $62,096.17; **Community Crossing Grant**, $340,439.35; **Donation**, $275; **Gaming Revenue**, $81,645.92; **MCCD**, $178,745.11; **ICT Fund** $11,615.19; **Police Pension**, $70,004.38

Payroll Docket for payday of August 21, 2026, by fund:
General, $371,249.84

Payroll Docket for payday of August 21, 2026:

Office of Clerk-Treasurer, $17,845.31; Building and Inspection Department, $11,440.29; Metropolitan Police Department, $147024.20; Public Works Department (Agency), $109,358.47; Fire Department, $6,778.69 and Information and Technology Department, $4,441.37

Total Payroll: $296.888.33

Payroll Docket for payday of August 31,2026 by fund:
Total Payroll by fund: $86,065.63

Payroll Docket for payday of August 31,2025:
Boards & Commissions. $14,141.04; Police Pension, $69,842.90

Total Payroll: $83,983.94

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, August 24, 2026, adjourned at 7:56 o'clock p.m.

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting of September 14, 2026.