

**GOODLAND TOWN COUNCIL
MAY 18, 2026**

THOSE PRESENT: BILL BABCOCK, KAY BABCOCK, TINA GOODMAN, TROY CAYTON, STEVE McNELLY, ANGLEA, JIM BUTLER, DUSTIN STANDISH, DAN RAUSCH, EDWIN BUSWELL, TIFFANY HOOD, JOE BARTON, ERICA McFARANE, JAKE RUDISILL, JORDAN RUDISILL, MIRA KINDIG, TOM MATTOX, GARY RHEUDE, JULIAN ELSON, JUD BARCE, JOHM SCHWARTZ, ROSS DERFLINGER

Park Plan - KIRPC Edwin Buswell

Edwin Buswell of KIRPC reported that the town's park plan has been approved by the Indiana DNR, making the town eligible to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. The grant range is \$250,000 to \$1,000,000, with a required 50/50 match, meaning a maximum total project cost of \$2,000,000. Buswell emphasized the urgency of moving forward, as the grant application is due August 1st, and DNR requires a pre-application video meeting to be scheduled before the end of June.

Buswell cautioned the council that the availability of this grant is uncertain going forward. The grant was not offered last year because the state redirected federal funds to state parks, and there are rumors that this may become an every-other-year occurrence. The council acknowledged that missing this cycle could mean a significant delay before the next opportunity.

Discussion turned to the need to hold a public meeting in early June to gather community input and develop specific project proposals with cost estimates. A council member emphasized that the estimates need to be reasonably accurate, as the grant amount awarded will be based on the submitted project cost. It was noted that the town is also required to hold one additional public presentation of the plan before it becomes official. The council agreed to use social media to promote the upcoming public meeting and conduct polling on park priorities. The plan is to have a community meeting in the first week of June, invite a cost estimator, and then run a poll immediately following the presentation.

Buswell also noted a new requirement that an environmental biologist must be hired to complete part of the environmental review, adding cost consideration to the process. A brief discussion arose regarding the need for animal kennels to address stray dogs in town. The chair clarified that this request falls outside the scope of the park master plan and cannot be incorporated into the grant application.

Before departing, Buswell also mentioned that KIRPC will be conducting traffic counts in Newton County, including in Goodland, now that U.S. 24 has reopened. He offered to count any specific streets if the council requested. The data is uploaded to the INDOT website and is used in determining infrastructure funding priorities.

- **New Business**

Building Inspector - John Schwartz

This item was addressed during the Unsafe Building Hearings and throughout New Business.

- **Unsafe Building Hearings**

The council reviewed the status of all active unsafe building orders, with Building Inspector John Schwartz providing field observations.

502 S Newton St. - Joe Deal Inspector Schwartz reported that Deal did not attend the meeting and called ahead to inform him of his absence. Of the items required by the prior order, Deal distributed the dirt pile around the yard and removed most of the brush but did not complete tuck pointing on the north wall or repair the front porch steps. A small new debris pile was noted in the backyard. The council reviewed the active timeline, which called for tuck pointing, garage shutter repair, and garage roof prep in May, with additional landscaping and porch roof prep due in June. A previously imposed \$5,000 fine remains held in abeyance. The council agreed to consolidate the outstanding May items into the June timeline and continue the matter to next month.

Motion to consolidate the outstanding May timeline items and continue the matter to the June meeting was made by the Chair and seconded by a council member.

The motion carried unanimously.

129 W Union St. - Scott Davis Inspector Schwartz reported that Davis also did not attend but that progress has been made. Approximately 90% of the wood in the yard has been removed, with the remainder to be burned. The camper that was previously ordered removed appears to be gone. Some tires were discovered in the backyard that Davis was unaware of. The status of the overhanging tree remains unconfirmed, though

Davis indicated he intended to address it. The council voted to continue the matter pending verification of the tree.

Motion to continue the matter pending verification of the overhanging tree was made by a council member and seconded by the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

222 E North St. - Tina Goodman Tina Goodman appeared before the council and explained that weather conditions-specifically rain and high winds-prevented completion of the siding work on the south wall, north wall, and dog pen area, which required scaffolding and two people working on ladders. She reported completing the siding under the north-side window with a temporary piece and reattaching plastic sheeting above the metal roof. She stated she has two helpers available and committed to completing the remaining work before the next meeting. Inspector Schwartz noted that the prior order included a penalty waiver conditioned on completion by May 18th. The council acknowledged her progress and voted to continue the matter.

Motion to continue the matter to the June meeting was made by Inspector Schwartz and seconded by a council member. The motion carried unanimously.

218 W Prairie St. - Steve McNelly Steven McNelly's property was reviewed, with two residents of the property attending-a man identified as the occupant and a woman.

The council clarified that the property is not vacant, as the residents split time between two properties, and therefore the order to seal the building does not apply. The occupants reported that vehicles on the property are insured, plated, and operable. They presented photographs showing ongoing repair work to an outbuilding, which they stated would be completed by the following day. The debris around the building was described as temporary construction material that would be cleaned up upon

completion. Inspector Schwartz noted some overgrowth along the gutters and a sloped front porch. The occupants acknowledged the porch has been in its current condition for decades, is on a concrete foundation, and does not present a structural hazard, though a council member noted that it detracts from the neighborhood's appearance. The council voted to continue the matter and directed the residents to come to the June meeting with a proposal regarding the porch.

Motion to continue the matter to the June meeting was made by a council member and seconded by the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

419 W Jasper - Hood Property (Update) Superintendent Dustin Standish reported that he walked the property the day after the previous meeting and found it in substantially better condition than described in the prior order-noting only minor litter, some sticks, and an unmowed yard. He gave the property occupants one month to address those items and reported being assured by phone that they have been addressed. The occupants also indicated they intend to remove scrap tires from the garage so the garage door can be closed. The council approved a motion to release the fine upon Standish's verification that all items-including the garage door being closed and tires removed-have been completed.

Motion to release the fine upon Dustin Standish's verification that the property is in compliance, including the removal of tires and closure of the garage door, was made by a council member and seconded by another council member. The motion carried unanimously.

Inspector Schwartz also noted concerns regarding vehicles parked in yards throughout town. Attorney Jud Barce indicated he would provide the council with a copy of a similar ordinance enacted in Fowler that requires vehicles parked outside of a street or designated driveway to be placed on a gravel or solid surface, with enforcement triggered when a vehicle remains stationary for more than 48 to 72 hours. The council agreed to review the ordinance for potential adoption.

Additionally, Inspector Schwartz raised concern about playground equipment at the town park. Several ground anchors for equipment have become dislodged, a ladder structure has rusted-through sections, and the perimeter border anchors have broken loose in multiple locations. He also noted that the pea gravel surface is approximately 8

to 10 inches below the required safety level, estimating it would take a couple of dump truck loads to bring it up to standard. Standish acknowledged the concerns and agreed to address them, noting that the manufacturer is Miracle Recreation and that replacement parts can be sourced through them.

Fire Department Report - Joe Barton

Fire Chief Joe Barton reported that all training classes associated with the department's Fire I and Fire II certification program have been completed. Members are in the process of finishing their certification testing. One member was unable to complete the program due to extenuating circumstances. The department is actively recruiting new members and will continue to work with the training program that has been established. Chief Barton noted upcoming summer events and expressed confidence in the department's readiness.

During the public comment portion later in the meeting, a community member acknowledged the Goodland Fire Department for their response to a recent local fire, calling attention to the quality of their work. The chair expressed hope for a speedy recovery for the affected establishment, noting it is an icon of the community.

Police Department Report - Dillon Hall

In Chief Hall's absence, Julian (a deputy covering for the department) addressed the council. He noted that Chief Hall submitted a written report for the evening. He confirmed there were no major incidents during his eight days assisting in town. He

asked Building Inspector Schwartz for a follow-up on an ordinance enforcement matter at 319 W Jasper Street regarding a camper and debris that had been discussed in April. Schwartz confirmed the yard has been cleaned and the trash has been burned, though the status of the camper remains unresolved. Julian noted that the majority of recent law enforcement calls in town have originated from that address and encouraged continued incremental enforcement efforts.

Mira Kindig - Social Media Services

Mira Kindig reported that her contract for social media services for the town has expired and requested renewal. The council voted to approve renewal of the contract.

Motion to approve the renewal of Mira Kindig's social media services contract was made by the Chair and seconded by Attorney Saree. The motion carried unanimously.

Street, Water & Sewer Department Report - Dustin Standish

Superintendent Standish reported that a preconstruction meeting with Town and Country has been scheduled for the following day regarding this year's paving

project. The contractor indicated that milling of roads would begin Thursday, May 21st, with paving to follow on May 22nd. Standish noted that crack sealing quotes discussed previously-for the tennis court, bank building, and other areas-have not yet been received from the contractor.

Standish reported that Newton County has patched the potholes on the county road abutting North Iroquois Street. He noted that the county had initially declined to patch the holes because the town had filled them with gravel, but once rain washed the gravel out, the county returned and completed the patching.

Standish requested that the council appoint him as a selling agent to dispose of an old surplus salt spreader stored at the public works building. He identified a potential buyer and estimated its value at approximately \$500. Attorney Saree advised that a resolution declaring the item surplus property and authorizing Standish to act as the town's agent would be the appropriate process.

Motion to declare the old salt spreader surplus property and authorize Dustin Standish to act as selling agent was made by a council member and seconded by another council member. The motion carried unanimously.

Standish also noted that a second, trailer-mounted salt spreader is severely deteriorated-rusted through, with a blown motor-and recommended it be taken to the scrap yard. He noted he has a buyer willing to pay a couple hundred dollars for it.

Motion to authorize Dustin Standish to use his judgment in disposing of the deteriorated salt spreader was made by a council member and seconded by the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding the sewer plant project, Standish reported that the engineering firm missed specifying safety grating over the contact tank, which has resulted in wildlife falling into the tank. The contractor has been contacted and has committed to installing the grating. A previously broken sewer gate is also being addressed by the contractor. Standish is still waiting on a quote from the contractor for building approaches and sidewalks. Standish was also asked for an update on obtaining quotes for a replacement bush hog. He noted the current one has holes rusted through the decking, a leaking gearbox, and requires constant oil attention during use. He intends to sell the old unit to an interested buyer and estimated a 72-inch replacement would be needed, noting that local implement dealers tend to be expensive.

A brief discussion arose regarding lawn mowing enforcement for tall-grass ordinance violations. Standish explained that he must be formally notified by the police department before he can access a property to mow it and bill the owner. He indicated he had not received any delinquent property notifications from Chief Hall and committed to following up after the meeting.

Attorney's Report - Jud Barce

Attorney Barce reported that lease renewal documents for town building tenants are still outstanding, as one of the two tenant organizations-Head Start-has not responded to emails sent to the addresses on file. He committed to calling directly to resolve the matter. A council member confirmed that Head Start is still actively using the building.

On the question of towing services, Attorney Barce provided a contact for L&M, a towing company out of Swanington (owner: Melbourne Hall, 219-884-1143), which recently removed eight vehicles from a neighboring municipality at no cost to the town, taking the vehicles as salvage. Inspector Schwartz confirmed the same company had previously removed a vehicle from Goodland. It was noted that All Star out of Audubon provides a similar service and can handle overflow. Barce clarified that once police tag a vehicle and the requisite holding period passes, the towing company can be called without cost to the town. It was agreed that Chief Hall should be briefed on this process upon his return.

Additional Business

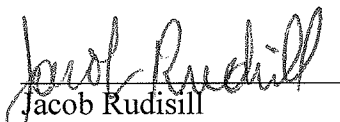
The council also approved two additional items:

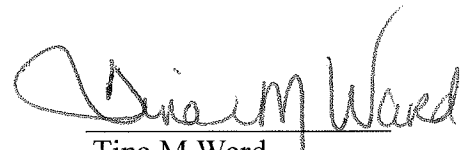
A proposal from Ken Smith of Municipal Civil Corporation for a water audit validation for 2026 was presented by the Chair.

Motion to approve the water audit validation proposal from Ken Smith, Municipal Civil Corporation, for 2026 was made by the Chair and seconded by a council member. The motion carried unanimously.

Building Inspector Schwartz presented a membership application for the Indiana Buildings Association at a cost of \$65 per year, which includes access to education and training resources relevant to the building inspector role.

Motion to approve the Indiana Buildings Association membership for \$65 per year was made by the Chair and seconded by a council member. The motion carried unanimously.


Jacob Rudisill
President


Tina M Ward
Secretary