
MEETING MEMO

SEPTEMBER 2026 – TOWN OF SUNMAN PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: 09.15.2026, TIME: 6:30 P.M., LOCATION: 604 N. MERIDIAN ST., SUNMAN, IN 47041,
LIVESTREAM **LIVESTREAM:** [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@TOWNOFSUNMAN](https://www.youtube.com/@townofsunman)

ARCHIVED MEETINGS: [HTTPS://WWW.TOWNOFSUNMAN.ORG/COUNCIL-MEETING-ARCHIVE](https://www.townofsunman.org/council-meeting-archive)

CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

Randy Zins called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 6:37 PM

Roll Call

Present: John Kellerman, Carol Eckstein, Megan Dell, Randy Zins, Julie Brock & Connor Getz in for Cheryl Taylor. Absent: Cheryl Taylor, Brian Maynard (Breavement)

Adoption of the Agenda - Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the agenda, 2nd Megan Dell.

GUESTS

Lifetime Resources – 2027 Funding Request

Michelle Guides, Catch-a-Ride Director with Lifetime Resources, addressed the Council. She thanked the Town for its continued support and stated that Executive Director Aaron Thomas was unable to attend. Council members were provided a packet containing information regarding the funding request, Lifetime Resources' annual report, and additional program information.

Guides explained that Lifetime Resources is one of 16 Area Agencies on Aging in Indiana and primarily serves older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers. The organization also operates Catch-a-Ride, a public transportation program available to anyone for any purpose, including medical appointments, grocery shopping, employment-related transportation, and personal trips.

Catch-a-Ride works with local organizations, including New Horizons and Decatur Industries, and also provides transportation through Medicaid, Medicare, managed care organizations, and other insurance programs that provide non-emergency medical transportation benefits.

Guides explained that the primary goal of Lifetime Resources is to help individuals maintain their independence and remain in their homes for as long as possible. Services include personal care, homemaking assistance, home-delivered meals, caregiver respite, guardianship services, health and wellness programs, and congregate meal sites that provide meals and opportunities for socialization.

She also discussed two newer programs offered through Lifetime Resources:

- **Veterans Directed Care**, which provides eligible veterans with a flexible budget that allows them to select and hire trusted family members, friends, or neighbors to assist with daily living needs.
- **Structured Family Care**, which provides compensation to qualifying family members or legal guardians who provide daily in-home care to aging or disabled relatives.
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Guides advised the Council that recent changes at the state level have resulted in many Area Agencies on Aging no longer providing case management services for certain Medicaid waiver populations. She emphasized that these changes have

created some public confusion and rumors that Lifetime Resources is closing. She stated that Lifetime Resources is **not closing** and continues to provide its other programs and services.

The funding requested from local communities is used to provide matching funds for various federal and state grants. She noted that the Medicaid waiver case management program was not part of the matching-fund program and therefore the recent changes do not affect Lifetime Resources' annual funding request.

When permitted by a particular funding source, participants may also contribute toward the cost of services through cost-sharing arrangements or transportation fares.

Lifetime Resources is requesting **\$1,500 from the Town of Sunman for 2027**, which Guides stated is the organization's standard request. She explained that the Town's contribution represents approximately 0.13% of Lifetime Resources' approximately \$1.2 million Ripley County budget.

Guides reported that the average Lifetime Resources care plan costs approximately **\$350 per month**, compared with an average monthly nursing facility cost of more than **\$8,900**. She explained that providing home- and community-based services can help residents remain safely in their homes while reducing the need for more costly institutional care.

Michelle thanked the Council for its consideration and offered to answer any questions.

Jerry Willing – Resident

Mr. Willing was unofficially added under guests to the agenda. The vote did not include this change. The council let him speak as a courtesy and should be considered Comments from the Floor.

Mr. Willing addressed the Council regarding property located on Eastern and his desire to construct a new residence on the rear portion of his property. He explained that the proposed access to the rear property is approximately 20 feet wide and that this is currently the only available access.

Council discussed the need to confirm that adequate access can be provided for utilities and emergency services, including the ability to reach the property in the event of a utility repair or fire emergency. It was noted that the required width of the access or driveway is primarily a planning and zoning matter and that Ripley County may require the proposed access to be widened.

The Council expressed no general objection to the construction of a new residence, provided that all applicable planning, zoning, setback, permitting, utility, and Town code requirements are met.

The resident was advised that he will need to complete the required permitting process through Ripley County. Once the necessary information is submitted, the Town's utility department can review the proposed site to determine the location of existing water and sewer infrastructure and whether any utility lines, easements, or other conditions could affect the proposed construction.

The Council discussed reviewing the property map in advance and having utility staff inspect the area to help identify potential utility issues before the resident moves further into the process.

The resident advised that water service is located near the front of the property and that electric service runs along one side. The location and availability of sewer service to the proposed rear residence will need to be confirmed by the utility department.

Council also discussed the possibility of obtaining a permanent access or utility easement across neighboring property if necessary. It was explained that any such arrangement would require agreement from the affected property owner and would need to be properly documented.

The resident was advised that the proposed layout may need to be revised depending upon planning and zoning requirements, driveway width, setbacks, utility locations, and access requirements. Those requirements cannot be waived by the Town Council where they fall under county planning and zoning authority.

REPORTS

- ❖ Marshal * Ordinance report will be emailed at a later date – Marshal Brian Maynard is on bereavement leave.
- ❖ Park
 - Tricia Freyer - Resignation – Effective 08.31.2026 – No vote to accept the resignation was motioned.
- ❖ Utility – report attached)

The wastewater plant blowers were discussed. Staff reported that the issue was more technical than mechanical and will likely be handled as a service call rather than a major repair.

While the EQ basin and digesters were being emptied, reduced resistance caused the blowers to overamp and trip out. Staff has since adjusted the valves and other equipment. One blower is currently operating properly, which is also helping reduce electrical usage. Work on the phosphorus-removal project is continuing. Staff reported that the project is believed to be in the final stages of preparation.

CLERK-TREASURER

- ❖ Approval of Meeting Memorandum – August 20, 2026 Regular Public Meeting Memo - Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the memo without change, 2nd Megan Dell.
- ❖ August Utility Adjustments, Fund Reports, and Financial Statement - Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the Fund Report, Utility adjustments, and Financial Statement, 2nd Megan Dell.
- ❖ APV Register – August 2026 - Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the debit card purchases, 2nd Megan Dell.

OLD / UNFINISHED / TABLED BUSINESS

- ❖ Budget Working Meeting Rescheduled – 09.22.2026, 6:30 pm - A budget working meeting is scheduled for September 22, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the 2027 budget. The meeting will be open to the public.
- ❖ Executive Session Reschedule – 09.22.2026 following the Budget Meeting - An executive session will immediately follow the public meeting to discuss employee-related matters as permitted by law. The executive session will not be open to the public.
- ❖ 117 Fawnmeadow Dr - The property at 117 Fawnmeadow Dr was discussed. Staff reported speaking with the property owner, who stated that he plans to be at the property by this coming weekend and complete the requested work. The directive is that if it is not mowed by Sunday, September 20, 2026, the council would like the an ordinance violation issued.

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ Halloween 2026 (2025, 5-8) – Carol Eckstein motioned to approve 6-9pm for trick or treatin on Halloween night, October 31, 2026
- ❖ Indiana LTAP Traffic Count Program - Indiana LTAP Traffic Counter Program -Megan Dell discussed the Indiana LTAP Traffic Counter Program and the possibility of borrowing traffic-counting equipment for use on several Town streets. Megan further reported that she had reviewed the available equipment and contacted Indiana LTAP for additional information. Based on the Town's needs, the magnetic traffic counter would likely be the most useful, along with a portable speed-display sign. Possible locations discussed included Maple Street, Fountain Avenue, Eastern Avenue, and Western Avenue. The equipment could be used to collect information on: The number of vehicles traveling on the streets; Vehicle speeds; and Pedestrian activity in areas where sidewalks are not available. The information could help the Town evaluate traffic concerns and determine whether improvements such as a crosswalk or other traffic-calming measures may be appropriate. Indiana LTAP advised

that there is no charge to borrow the equipment. The portable speed-display signs may be borrowed for up to four weeks. LTAP also provides instructions and online videos explaining installation, software use, and how to download and review the collected data. Additional information is still being requested regarding current equipment availability and how long the traffic counters themselves may be kept. A representative from Indiana LTAP is expected to follow up with those details.

Council expressed support for obtaining traffic data, particularly on Eastern and Western Avenues, where the Town receives frequent complaints regarding speeding and heavy traffic. Eastern Avenue was specifically discussed as an area of concern due to reports of excessive vehicle speeds.

ADJOURNMENT

Carol Eckstein motioned to adjourn at 7:25 pm, 2nd Megan Dell

The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2026 – Regular Public Meeting

Memorandum approved this 2th day, October, 2026.

Randy Zins, Council President

Carol Eckstein, Council Member

Megan Dell, Council Member

Attest, Cheryl Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer

OTHER MATTERS TABLED

- DORA
- Master Meter – Trees
- Local Tax Option
- 313 Western Avenue