2027 BUDGET MEETING MEMO

OCTOBER 2026 – TOWN OF SUNMAN PUBLIC MEETING
DATE: 10.06.2026, TIME: 6:00 P.M., LOCATION: 604 N. MERIDIAN ST., SUNMAN, IN 47041,
LIVESTREAM: HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@TOWNOFSUNMAN
ARCHIVED MEETINGS: 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 6:41pm

Roll Call

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

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

GUESTS

REPORTS

❖

CLERK-TREASURER

❖

OLD / UNFINISHED / TABLED BUSINESS

❖

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ Budget – Carol Ecstein motioned to approve the first reading of the budget, 2nd Megan Dell
- ❖ HEA 1048 – Carol Eckstein motioned to table the matter until the legislature update in 2027, 2nd Megan Dell

ADJOURNMENT

Carol Eckstein motioned to adopt the 2027 budget as written, 2nd Megan Dell

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

Memorandum approved this 20th 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

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

State Form 55865 (7-15)
Approved by the State Board of Accounts, 2015
Prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance

Budget Form No. 4
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Ordinance / Resolution Number: 2026-14

Be it ordained/resolved by the **Town of Sunman Council, Civil** that for the expenses of **SUNMAN CIVIL TOWN , Ripley County** for the year ending December 31, **2027** the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of **SUNMAN CIVIL TOWN , Ripley County**, the property tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget Form 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance.

This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the **Town of Sunman Council, Civil** .

Name of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Type of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Date of Adoption
Town of Sunman Council, Civil	Town Council	10/20/2026

Estimated Maximum Property Tax Levy

The data below represents the current estimate of the maximum amount of property taxes that can be raised for funds that are subject to a maximum property tax levy.

Property Tax Max Levy Type	Estimated Maximum Property Tax Levy	Total Property Tax Levies	Status
Civil	$245,491	$245,491	At Estimated Maximum Levy

Funds

Property Tax Max Levy Type	Fund Code	Fund Name	Adopted Budget	Adopted Tax Levy	Adopted Tax Rate
Not Eligible	0061	RAINY DAY	$25,000	$0	$0.0000
Civil	0101	GENERAL	$379,228	$178,505	$0.4071
Not Eligible	0706	LOCAL ROAD & STREET	$6,000	$0	$0.0000
Civil	0708	MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY	$29,000	$8,000	$0.0182
Civil	1301	PARK & RECREATION	$22,600	$40,000	$0.0912
Not Eligible	2379	CUMULATIVE CAPITAL IMP (CIG TAX)	$1,500	$0	$0.0000
Civil	2391	CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	$11,000	$18,986	$0.0368
Not Eligible	2411	ECONOMIC DEV INCOME TAX CEDIT	$20,000	$0	$0.0000
			$494,328	**$245,491**	**0.5533**

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Name		Signature
Carol Eckstein	Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐	
Randy Zins	Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐	
Megan Dell	Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐	

ATTEST

Name	Title	Signature
Cheryl A Taylor	Clerk-Treasurer	

In accordance with IC 6-1.1-17-16(k), we state our intent to isssue debt after December 1 and before January 1 Yes ☐ No ☐

In accordance with IC 6-1.1-17-16(k), we state our intent to file a shortfall appeal after December 1 and before December 31 Yes ☐ No ☐

Town of Sunman

Local Income Tax (LIT) – Budget Meeting Summary

What We Need to Know for 2027

Indiana has delayed the major changes to the Local Income Tax system. For **2027 and 2028**, Sunman will continue under the current LIT system.

That means there is **no major change to how Sunman receives LIT for the 2027 budget**.

Current Sunman LIT

For 2026, Sunman was certified to receive approximately:

Certified Shares: **$135,394**

Public Safety: **$80,848**

Economic Development: **$39,873**

Total: $256,115

The Town should continue to monitor DLGF's certified and estimated distributions each year when preparing the budget.

Important 2026 Deadlines

If Ripley County takes action on a LIT rate during 2026:

Action taken **September 1 through October 31, 2026** generally becomes effective **January 1, 2027**.

LIT allocation or distribution changes generally need to be adopted by **November 1** to take effect the following January.

Sunman does **not** have authority to independently change the county LIT rate under the current system.

Major Changes Are Coming — But Not Yet

The new Indiana LIT system is now expected to begin with:

2028: Counties begin preparing and adopting the new LIT structure.

2029: Taxes begin being collected under the new structure.

2030: Distributions begin under the new system.

How the New System May Affect Sunman

Because Sunman's population is below **3,500**, the Town generally will **not be able to impose its own municipal LIT** under the new system.

Instead, Ripley County will have authority to establish a **Small-Town LIT** for communities such as Sunman.

The **Ripley County Council** will have significant control over whether that tax is adopted and how much is collected.

Sunman may need to adopt a resolution requesting its share of the Small-Town LIT distribution.

This is important: if eligible towns do not properly elect to participate, the county may be allowed to retain that revenue.

Fire & EMS Funding

The new system will also allow a county LIT component specifically for **Fire and EMS**.

This could become important to Sunman because future LIT revenue could potentially help fund fire and emergency services separately from the Town's existing fire-protection contract.

This should be monitored as Ripley County begins discussing the new LIT structure.

What Sunman Should Do Now

For budgeting and future planning:

Continue using the current LIT system for the **2027 and 2028 budgets**.

Track Sunman's annual LIT distributions so we have a good financial baseline before the law changes.

Watch Ripley County Council discussions regarding the new LIT system beginning in 2027–2028.

Identify any Town debt that is paid from or pledged to LIT revenue.

Prepare for a possible Town resolution to participate in the **Small-Town LIT** when the new system becomes effective.

Monitor the new Fire & EMS LIT option and how it may affect Sunman's fire-service costs.

Bottom Line for the 2027 Budget

There is no immediate major LIT change for Sunman's 2027 budget.

The Town should budget using the current system and DLGF's certified/estimated distributions.

The bigger concern is preparing for **2028–2030**, when Ripley County will have much more control over the new LIT structure and Sunman will need to make sure it takes the necessary steps to protect its share of future revenue.