

## SPECIAL MEETING MEMO

JUNE 2026 – TOWN OF SUNMAN PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: 06.16.2026, 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 6:33 PM

### MATTER – FUNDING FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT OPROJECT

The Town Council held a public Drinking Water Infrastructure Funding Strategy meeting on June 16, 2026, to discuss funding options for the Town's Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements Project, currently estimated at approximately \$4.5–\$4.7 million. Council reviewed potential funding sources including the State Revolving Fund (SRF), USDA Rural Development, OCRA, the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA), and the Town's recently awarded \$1 million Congressional Community Project Funding grant. Due to the federal award being significantly less than the original \$3.76 million request, the Council discussed dividing the project into phases. Phase 1, Water Supply and Treatment Reliability Improvements, estimated at approximately \$2.1 million, was identified as the highest priority and would potentially combine the \$1 million Congressional award with an SRF loan. Phase 2, Water Storage Rehabilitation, estimated at approximately \$900,000, would focus on improvements to the Town's water towers and may be pursued through OCRA and/or USDA Rural Development funding opportunities. Phase 3, Distribution System Improvements, estimated at approximately \$1.7 million, would include undersized water main replacement, lead service line replacement, elimination of dead-end mains, fire flow improvements, and meter modernization, with potential funding assistance through IFA and other available programs. Following discussion, the Council authorized Cheryl Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer, to continue researching and pursuing available funding opportunities and to engage with the various funding agencies on behalf of the Town to develop a strategy for completing the full project.

### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

- ❖ Open floor
- The full meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pUrKwhk8pY>

### ADJOURNMENT

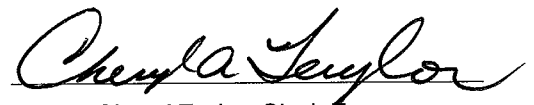
Carol Eckstein motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Randy Zins

*Memorandum approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2026.*

  
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Randy Zins, Council President

  
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Carol Eckstein, Council Member

  
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Megan Dell, Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest, Cheryl Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer



# TOWN OF SUNMAN

SAFE WATER. STRONG COMMUNITY. SECURE FUTURE.

## FUNDING ASK SHEET

Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements

Investing Today for Generations to Come



**472+**  
Active Service  
Connections



**Reliable Water**  
for Homes, Schools,  
Businesses & Fire  
Protection



**Protecting**  
Public Health,  
Safety & Quality  
of Life



**Project Ready**  
Planning Completed.  
Shovel Ready.  
Responsible Stewardship.

### CURRENT STATUS

The Town of Sunman has completed extensive planning and engineering to identify and prepare critical drinking water infrastructure improvements.

#### PLANNING COMPLETED

- Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)
- Asset Management Plan
- Water Emergency Contingency Plan
- Lead Service Line Inventory
- Water Loss Audit
- Wellhead Protection Program
- Funding Readiness Documentation

 **\$1,000,000 SECURED**  
Congressional Community  
Project Funding Awarded

Thank you for recognizing Sunman's need and readiness to invest in critical water infrastructure.

### THE NEED: INVESTING IN OUR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE


#### PHASE I WATER SUPPLY & TREATMENT RELIABILITY



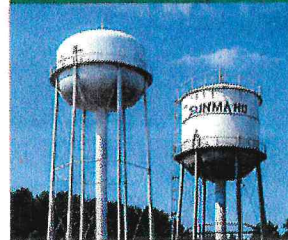
**\$2,100,000**

Critical improvements to ensure reliable production and treatment of safe drinking water.

- Well rehabilitation & pump replacement
- New filtration equipment
- High service pump replacement
- Treatment facility expansion
- Controls & automation upgrades
- Backup generator

 **HIGHEST PRIORITY**  
Addresses immediate  
operational risk

#### PHASE II WATER STORAGE REHABILITATION



**\$900,000**

Rehabilitate two elevated storage tanks to preserve capacity and protect community assets.

- 200,000-gallon tank rehabilitation
- 75,000-gallon tank rehabilitation
- Interior & exterior coating systems
- Structural repairs
- Safety & access improvements

 **HIGH PRIORITY**  
Preserves storage, pressure  
& fire protection


#### PHASE III DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS



**\$1,700,000**

Improve distribution system performance, fire flow, and meet regulatory requirements.

- Lead & galvanized service line replacement
- Undersized water main replacement
- Eliminate dead-end mains
- Fire flow & pressure improvements
- Meter modernization

 **MODERATE TO HIGH PRIORITY**  
Supports compliance, reliability  
& future growth

### TOTAL PROGRAM NEED

**TOTAL PROJECT NEED**  
**\$4,700,000**

**FUNDING SECURED**  
**\$1,000,000**

Congressional Community  
Project Funding





**REMAINING  
FUNDING GAP**  
**≈ \$3,700,000**

Needed to Complete  
All Phases

### WHY SUNMAN IS A STRONG INVESTMENT

- ✓ **Project Ready** – Planning, engineering, and documentation complete.
- ✓ **Community Impact** – Serving homes, schools, businesses, and critical facilities.
- ✓ **Public Health & Safety** – Protects drinking water quality and fire protection.
- ✓ **Responsible Stewardship** – Long-term planning and asset management.
- ✓ **Emergency Preparedness** – Water Emergency Contingency Plan, wellhead protection, and emergency procedures strengthen resilience.

### FUNDING REQUEST BY PARTNER

PARTNER / PROGRAM	ELIGIBLE USES	AMOUNT REQUESTED
 Indiana State Revolving Fund	Treatment improvements, wells, storage, distribution	<b>\$1,500,000</b>
 Rural Development	Well rehabilitation, storage rehabilitation, treatment upgrades	<b>\$800,000</b>
 Community Development (CDBG)	Distribution improvements, undersized mains, fire flow	<b>\$700,000</b>
 Indiana Finance Authority	Low-interest financing for remaining eligible costs	<b>\$500,000</b>
 Congressional Additional Support	Appropriation / community project request for remaining needs	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED</b>		<b>\$4,500,000</b>

Amounts are estimates. Final funding structure will be determined based on eligibility and award amounts.

### WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP.

Your investment helps ensure safe, reliable drinking water, protects public health, supports economic growth, and strengthens our community for generations to come.

#### CONTACT:

Cheryl Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer  
Town of Sunman  
604 North Meridian Street  
Sunman, IN 47041

(401) 710-1404

clerk@townofsunman.org

## **Town of Sunman**

### **Drinking Water Infrastructure Funding Strategy Proposal**

**June 2026**

#### **Purpose**

The Town of Sunman has completed a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), Asset Management Plan, sanitary survey corrective actions, and numerous planning efforts to identify critical improvements necessary to ensure the long-term reliability, safety, and regulatory compliance of the Town's drinking water system.

The total estimated cost of identified improvements exceeds available local resources. Therefore, the Town proposes a phased funding strategy designed to maximize grants, principal forgiveness opportunities, and outside funding while minimizing impacts to utility customers.

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### **Phase I – Water Supply and Treatment Reliability**

#### **Estimated Cost**

Approximately \$2.1 Million

#### **Priority Level**

Critical

#### **Purpose**

The Town's highest priority is maintaining the ability to produce and treat safe drinking water. Several critical components of the treatment facility have exceeded their expected useful life and represent the greatest operational risk to the utility.

#### **Project Components**

- Rehabilitation of Wells 4A, 5, and 6
- Replacement of Well Pumps 5 and 6
- New package filtration unit
- New treatment facility controls
- High service pump replacement
- Process piping and valve replacement
- New emergency backup generator
- Building addition and treatment facility improvements

#### **Benefits**

- Protects public health
- Prevents treatment interruptions
- Improves system reliability
- Reduces emergency repair costs
- Improves operational efficiency
- Increases emergency preparedness

#### **Potential Funding Sources**

- Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF)
- SRF Principal Forgiveness Programs
- USDA Rural Development
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Programs
- Congressional Directed Spending Requests
- Indiana Finance Authority Funding Opportunities

### **Recommended Action**

The Town should aggressively pursue funding and construction of this phase first, as these improvements directly affect the utility's ability to provide safe and reliable drinking water.

## **Phase II – Water Storage Rehabilitation**

### **Estimated Cost**

Approximately \$700,000 – \$1,000,000

### **Priority Level**

High

### **Purpose**

The Town's two elevated storage tanks provide emergency water storage, fire protection capacity, and system pressure. Both tanks show signs of deterioration and are due for rehabilitation.

### **Project Components**

- Rehabilitation of the 200,000-gallon elevated storage tank
- Rehabilitation of the 75,000-gallon elevated storage tank
- Interior and exterior coating replacement
- Structural repairs as identified during construction
- Safety and access improvements

### **Benefits**

- Extends asset life by 20–30 years
- Protects water quality
- Maintains fire protection capability
- Preserves existing infrastructure investments
- Reduces future replacement costs
- **Potential Funding Sources**
- USDA Rural Development
- Indiana SRF
- State Appropriations
- Community Foundation Assistance
- Local Matching Contributions

### **Recommended Action**

The Town should begin design and funding applications immediately following Phase I funding commitments to avoid further deterioration and escalating rehabilitation costs.

## **Phase III – Distribution System Improvements**

### **Estimated Cost**

Approximately \$1.0 – \$1.5 Million

### **Priority Level**

Moderate to High

### **Purpose**

The distribution system contains undersized mains, dead-end lines, and service lines requiring replacement under emerging regulatory requirements.

### **Project Components**

#### **Regulatory Compliance**

- Replace galvanized service lines requiring replacement
- Replace unknown service lines as required
- Complete Lead and Copper Rule compliance activities

#### **Fire Protection and Reliability**

- Replace undersized water mains
- Eliminate critical dead-end sections
- Improve fire flow capacity
- Improve pressure in identified service areas

#### **Future Improvements**

- Customer meter modernization program
- Water loss reduction initiatives
- SCADA and telemetry enhancements

#### **Benefits**

- Improves fire protection
- Reduces water loss
- Improves hydraulic performance
- Meets federal and state regulatory requirements
- Supports future community development

#### **Potential Funding Sources**

- EPA Lead Service Line Funding
- Indiana SRF Lead Service Line Programs
- OCRA Community Development Programs
- Public Safety Grants
- Community Crossings (where roadway improvements overlap)

#### **Recommended Action**

The Town should prioritize regulatory compliance projects first, followed by fire flow and distribution improvements as funding becomes available.

#### **Funding Strategy**

The Town of Sunman will pursue a layered funding approach utilizing grants, principal forgiveness opportunities, federal appropriations, state programs, and low-interest financing.

Funding priorities shall be pursued in the following order:

- Phase I – Water Supply and Treatment Reliability
- Phase II – Water Storage Rehabilitation
- Phase IIIA – Lead Service Line Compliance
- Phase IIIB – Distribution and Fire Flow Improvements

This phased approach allows the Town to address immediate public health and operational concerns while positioning future phases for competitive funding opportunities.

## **Conclusion**

The Town of Sunman has invested significant effort in planning, engineering, asset management, and regulatory compliance. The proposed phased funding strategy represents a responsible and financially sustainable approach to preserving critical drinking water infrastructure while minimizing rate impacts on residents and businesses.

The Town respectfully requests assistance from funding agencies, legislative partners, and stakeholders to ensure the continued delivery of safe, reliable drinking water to the community for generations to come.

# Town of Sunman Water Project Funding Checklist

**Goal: Secure funding and complete all phases of the Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvement Program while minimizing rate impacts.**

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## Immediate Actions (Next 30 Days)

### Funding Strategy Meetings

- Send meeting request to Indiana Finance Authority (IFA)
- Request a joint funding strategy meeting with:
  - IFA
  - USDA Rural Development
  - OCRA
  - Alliance of Indiana Rural Water
  - HWC Engineering
- Prepare and distribute Funding Ask Sheet
- Prepare project presentation packet
- Develop one-page project summary for legislators

- Asset Management Plan
- Water Emergency Contingency Plan
- Lead Service Line Inventory
- Water Loss Audit
- Wellhead Protection Plan
- Sanitary Survey Corrections
- Funding Ask Sheet

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## Principal Forgiveness & SRF

- Schedule discussion with IFA regarding principal forgiveness
- Ask:  
"How can Sunman maximize principal forgiveness eligibility?"
- Ask:  
"What additional scoring opportunities exist?"
- Ask:  
"What funding structure would minimize customer rate impacts?"
- Review disadvantaged community criteria
- Evaluate affordability metrics

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## Funding Readiness Documentation

- Update Preliminary Engineering Report cost estimates
- Update Asset Management Plan as needed
- Include Water Emergency Contingency Plan in all funding packets
- Include Congressional Award documentation
- Assemble project readiness binder:
  - PER

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## **Income Survey Investigation**

- Meet with OCRA regarding income survey requirements
- Determine eligibility thresholds
- Review current census tract data
- Evaluate whether survey could improve:
  - SRF Principal Forgiveness
  - OCRA eligibility
  - USDA eligibility
- Obtain cost estimate for survey
- Determine timeline

## **Fire Protection & Public Safety Funding**

### **Gather Data**

- Meet with local Fire Department
- Identify:
  - Low fire flow areas
  - Insurance concerns
  - Mutual aid concerns
  - Growth limitations
- Obtain support letter from Fire Department
- Document public safety impacts

### **Funding Opportunities**

- Research public safety funding sources
- Include fire protection narrative in funding applications

- Reframe distribution improvements as:
  - Public Safety Infrastructure
  - Emergency Response Infrastructure
  - Community Resilience Infrastructure

## **County Partnership Opportunities**

- Meet with Ripley County Commissioners
- Meet with Ripley County Council
- Meet with Economic Development representatives
- Discuss potential participation:
  - Infrastructure funds
  - Economic development funds
  - READI-related opportunities
  - Matching funds
  - Request support letters

## **Legislative Outreach**

### **Federal**

- Meet with Congressman Houchin's staff
- Discuss future Congressional funding opportunities
- Submit updated project information

### **State**

- Meet with Senator Leising
- Meet with State Representatives

Provide project packet

Request guidance on:

State appropriations

Infrastructure initiatives

Special funding opportunities

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### **Community & Business Support**

Create "Sunman Water Infrastructure Fund" concept

Meet with local industries

Meet with local banks

Meet with major employers

Request:

Support letters

Advocacy assistance

Potential matching contributions

Gather economic impact statements

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### **Phase I Funding (Highest Priority)**

#### **Water Supply & Treatment**

Wells 4A, 5, and 6 rehabilitation

Well pump replacements

Treatment facility modernization

High-service pump replacement

Controls and automation upgrades

Emergency generator installation

Treatment building expansion

### **Funding Targets**

SRF

Principal Forgiveness

USDA

FEMA Resilience Programs

Congressional Funding

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### **Phase II Funding**

#### **Water Storage**

200,000-gallon tank rehabilitation

75,000-gallon tank rehabilitation

Structural repairs

Interior and exterior coatings

Safety upgrades

### **Funding Targets**

USDA

SRF

State Appropriations

Local Match Funds

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### **Phase III Funding**

#### **Regulatory Compliance**

Replace galvanized service lines

Replace unknown service lines

Lead and Copper Rule compliance

### **Funding Targets**

EPA Lead Service Line Funding

SRF Lead Service Line Programs

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### **Distribution Improvements**

Replace undersized mains

Improve fire flow

Eliminate dead-end mains

Meter modernization planning

### **Funding Targets**

OCRA

SRF

Public Safety Funding

Community Crossings (where applicable)

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### **Key Question for Every Agency Meeting**

Ask:

"If Sunman were your community and your goal was to complete this project with the least possible rate increase, what funding strategy would you pursue?"

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### **Success Metrics**

Additional principal forgiveness secured

Additional grants secured

County participation obtained

Fire protection support letters received

Income survey completed (if beneficial)

Funding stack developed

Phase I fully funded

Remaining phases positioned for funding

**Ultimate Goal:** Complete the entire water infrastructure program while maintaining affordability for Sunman residents and protecting reliable drinking water service for future generations.

## LETTERHEAD

Dear Indiana Finance Authority Team,

On behalf of the Town of Sunman AND THE Town Council members, I would like to request an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Indiana Finance Authority to discuss funding strategies for our drinking water infrastructure improvement program.

Over the past several years, the Town has invested significant effort into planning, engineering, and regulatory preparedness. We have completed a Preliminary Engineering Report, Asset Management Plan, Water Emergency Contingency Plan, Lead Service Line Inventory, Water Loss Audits, Wellhead Protection planning, and other funding readiness activities necessary to move forward with critical infrastructure improvements.

The Town has also successfully secured \$1 million in Congressional Community Project Funding toward these efforts. While we are grateful for this investment, a significant funding gap remains before the full scope of needed improvements can be completed.

Our current priorities include:

- Water treatment facility modernization and reliability improvements
- Well rehabilitation and pump replacement
- Emergency generator installation
- Elevated storage tank rehabilitation
- Lead service line replacement and regulatory compliance improvements
- Distribution system and fire flow enhancements

We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to sit down with IFA staff to discuss available funding programs, principal forgiveness opportunities, project phasing strategies, and any recommendations your team may have for assembling a comprehensive funding package that minimizes impacts to our ratepayers while addressing critical infrastructure needs.

Our goal is to be proactive, responsible stewards of public infrastructure while ensuring long-term reliability for our residents, businesses, schools, and emergency services.

Please let us know if there is an opportunity to schedule a meeting in the coming weeks. We would be happy to travel to Indianapolis or participate virtually at your convenience.

Thank you for your time, assistance, and continued support of Indiana's small communities.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Taylor  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Town of Sunman  
604 N. Meridian Street  
Sunman, IN 47041  
(812) 623-2077  
[clerk@townofsunman.org](mailto:clerk@townofsunman.org)