



2026 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING & MEETING MINUTES
PRINCE'S LAKES TOWN COUNCIL
PRINCE'S LAKES TOWN HALL, 14 E LAKEVIEW DR, NINEVEH, IN 46164
September 15, 2025

COUNCILORS PRESENT:	COUNCIL PRESIDENT LINDSEY HENSON COUNCILOR CHARLIE BOURNE COUNCILOR ANTHONY GIGER COUNCILOR KEVIN HARRISON
COUNCILOR ABSENT:	COUNCIL V PRESIDENT BRYAN TEARMAN
CLERK-TREASURER PRESENT:	ERICA LYDEN-GIGER
TOWN ATTORNEY PRESENT:	LEE ROBBINS
STAFF PRESENT:	MARSHAL GREG SOUTHERS UTILITES SUPT SCOTT BLACKWELL STREET DEPT SUPERVISOR TONY PIKE

Council President Henson called the public hearing to order at 6:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Clerk-Treasurer Erica Lyden-Giger stated the 2026 budget is \$999,755, a slight decrease from the 2025 budget of \$1,052,650.

- * More funds were allocated for a new software system and paving.
- * Circuit breaker loss is increasing over 1100%, to about \$34,700. Mrs. Lyden-Giger had spoken to two consultants and both agreed reallocating elected officials salaries will help make up almost all of the circuit breaker loss and need to make this change in the current year. She also said resolution 2025-06 will need to be adopted for an appropriation reduction in MVH. The adoption meeting will be on Monday October 20, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

- No public comment was made regarding budget and budget hearing was closed.
- Council President Lindsey Henson motioned to approve on first reading the 2026 budget as presented. Councilor Anthony Giger seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Jim Higgins gave Council his SEA 1 report.

- * Circuit breakers have increased due to changes from deductions to credits.
- * The circuit breaker is estimated to increase from \$2,700 in 2025 to over \$30,000 next year.
- * Levy growth of 4% next year will partially offset the circuit breaker increase.

- * Assessed values are decreasing, leading to higher tax rates and increased circuit breakers.
- * Reductions in assessed value are being given to both homestead and non-homestead owners
- * This affects landlords, people with second homes, residential rentals, and agricultural properties.
- * Shrinking the tax base will cause tax rates to increase to maintain the same levy.

BUDGET CONCERNS

- * 2026 budget loss isn't huge (\$30,000) and can be absorbed by shifting expenses between the Town and Utility. Loss of local income taxes in 2028: Could be replaced by the County Council up to 1.2% rate. The current income tax rate is about 1.8%. The income tax they're going to allow Prince's Lakes to raise isn't even enough to cover what we are currently getting.
- * Cum Cap Development Fund will shrink, resulting in a \$20,000 cut.

PARKS DEPARTMENT Mike Gallamore

- * Thefts from the garden are occurring. Over 200 pounds of produce have been given to the food pantry. The nature walking trail is nearing completion. DNR identified trees for scavenger hunts.
- * Donations for the Party in the Parks Festival are coming in. Volunteers are needed for Party for the Parks on October 18th (a Saturday). The event is during fall break.

Mr. Gallamore explained when he was in the hospital, one of his children left on his garden hose for three days resulting in a high water bill. Mr. Gallamore ask for a credit on his wastewater bill.

Richard Hanlin requests reconsideration of his job. Stating he is certified and can get additional training. Kaitlyn Tuckett advocated for Richard to get his job back and said he was the only officer that stayed after shift to ensure employee safety. Jim Young gave a signed petition for Mr. Hanlin to get his job back.

Discussion was made about Council considering adopting a new chicken ordinance that was updated by the Planning Commission. Town Attorney Lee Robins stated the Town cannot adopt an ordinance that overrides existing private covenants of landholder's associations. If Lake covenants restrict animals, the Town ordinance cannot supersede those restrictions. It's unknown if the original lake covenants from the 1940s included restrictions on animals or livestock. Voting on ordinance will take place at the next meeting. If no action is taken within 90 days, the ordinance will pass.

Concerns were raised about having a compliant tracking system. Mrs. Lyden-Giger stated she has a meeting later in the week to discuss software that would allow residents to be able to notify the Town and track the progress of an issue.

- Councilor Giger motioned to provide a credit based on the cost of the water plus the regular bill and credit back the rest to Mr. Gallamore and allow Mr. Blackwell to figure out the amount of the credit and adjust the bill. Council President Lindsey Henson seconded. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilor Bourne motioned to approve the August 2025 meeting minutes. Council President Henson seconded. Motion carried.

TOWN MARSHAL REPORT Marshal Greg Southers
ABANDONED VEHICLES AND PROBLEM PROPERTIES

* An abandoned vehicle report was provided. Permission is requested to give the town attorney reports and information collected over the last three years regarding Mark Miller's house for potential legal action. There have been numerous dispatch calls to the property for issues like burning trash, overdoses, and drug dealing. One of the properties is in the process of foreclosure.

PERSONNEL DISCUSSION

* Officer Coffee thinks Jordan Anderson, a former Whiteland School police officer, is interested in a part-time position. Prior to that, Jordan was a reserve with Nashville Police Department. He is already academy-certified. A new requirement mandates contacting everyone before hiring a new officer to gather information. Reserve officer Jim Jackson gave several suggestions for a new police vehicle. Council will take suggestions under advisement.

WATER/WASTEWATER REPORT Superintendent Scott Blackwell

The Edinburgh town manager contacted the Town about potentially wholesaling water to them.

* The Utility received a satisfactory report from a three-day EPA inspection of Camp Atterbury, including the water plant.

The SRF loan for the reservoir project closed on August 28th. Ground was broken on September 10th for exploratory work. The old foundation from the previous tower was discovered.

* The Town did not receive the DOD grant.

* The easement for the state property is moving forward. The Town now qualifies for the OCRA grant due to changes in income survey rules. An application has been submitted to get official approval to do the income survey.

* Information on the new water rates has been submitted to Keystone. The new rates are anticipated to take effect in November or December. The Town's water loss is staying in the low 80% range.

WASTEWATER

* Camp Atterbury dumped their pool water into the wastewater system without prior notification, disrupting the plant. A lift station pump burned up and was replaced.

Mr. Giger suggested to implement a bill round-up program to help residents in need.

* The challenge would be determining the criteria for allocating the funds. Partnering with the township trustees was suggested as a possible solution. Research will be conducted on the billing side to see if the program can be implemented.

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT Street Department Supervisor Tony Pike

Mowing has slowed down. Town Hall and Chuck's Pavilion have been power washed.

* Brush cutting and UTV servicing were completed.

* Tree trimming at the park.

* 10 tons of cold patch were picked up and used for repairs.

* New signpost and street signs installed at Lakeview, and at Kinman and Sallee.

* A ditch was dug at Howard Prince, and Dyson to improve drainage.

* Similar work planned for Lakeview and Jeremy.

* Utilities to be located at the end of Latimer for pavement repairs.

* Ditch clearing at 8159 South Fox Lane to uncover a culvert.

CLERK-TREASURER REPORT Erica Lyden-Giger

Clerk-Treasurer presented claims and asked for approval. Cintas invoices for \$246.04, HWC #11 for \$5250.00. Anthem refund check of \$12,773.43 received due to medical loss ratio (MLR) rebate. Mrs. Lyden-Giger suggested to divide the refund evenly among employees with 2026 out-of-pocket premium expenses, effectively providing a credit for six months, around \$1,800 per employee. Mrs. Lyden-Giger asked for approval for **Transfer Resolution 2025-05** \$231,000 and **Resolution 2025-07 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2025 TOWN PARK FUNDRAISING EVENT AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF BEER AND WINE.**

- Council President Henson motioned to approve all claims as presented. Councilor Bourne seconded. Motion carried.
- Council President Henson made motion to approve **Transfer Resolution 2025-05 & Resolution 2025-07** Councilor Bourne seconded. Motion carried.
- Council President Henson made motion to approve Cintas invoices for \$246.04 Councilor Harrison seconded. Motion carried.
- Councilor Bourne made motion to approve Anthem refund check to be divide the refund evenly among employees with out-of-pocket premium expenses. Council President Henson seconded the motion. Councilor Harrison voted no, Councilor Bourne voted yes, Councilor Giger voted yes, Council President Henson voted yes. Motion carried.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Mr. Robbins is still in talks with trash companies about bids for the Town. Mrs. Henson stated she is going to vote no on requiring all residents to have trash pickup service. Mr. Robbins will put bids together and invite bids.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Bourne gave everyone a copy of the drawing for the Marshal's office building.

* First bid was \$27,000, but could be more now, estimates no more than \$30,000-\$40,000.

Mrs. Lyden-Giger stated she spoke with the Marshal and suggested using it as a garage and storage. Mr. Bourne wants to get an architect to come out and look at it and give an estimate.

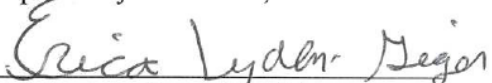
* Architect said he could make a drawing for between \$300-\$500. Mrs. Henson said the police need a new office, but does not feel the current drawing is sufficient.

NEW BUSINESS:

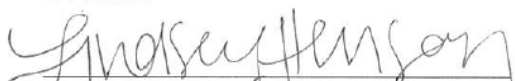
Mrs. Henson asked about whether there is an ordinance that when a business owner or resident contacts a council member to make a complaint on an employee or police officer, that they are not supposed to take it and that they are supposed to come to Town Hall and write an official complaint. Mr. Robbins does not think there is an ordinance like that. Suggested to tell the person to submit the complaint in writing.

With no further business before the Prince's Lakes Town Council, Council President Henson adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm

Respectfully submitted,


Erica Lyden-Giger, IAMCA
Clerk-Treasurer

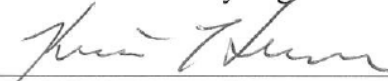
Council:


Council President Lindsey Henson


Council Vice President Bryan Tearman


Councilor Charlie Bourne


Councilor Anthony Giger


Councilor Kevin Harrison