

## POSEYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: August 14, 2025

[Video Link](#)

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Council President Justin Rutledge at 6:00 p.m.

#### PRESENT

- **Council President:** Justin Rutledge
- **Council Members:** Michael Baehl, Randall Rankin
- **Clerk-Treasurer:** Jodie Rankin
- **Town Attorney:** William Bender

#### In-person Attendees:

- List retained (5)

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the July 8, 2025, meeting were presented, having been emailed to Council members in advance for their review.

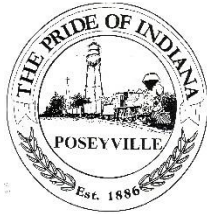
Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

#### CLAIMS DOCKET

The Claims Docket was emailed to Council members prior to the meeting for their review along with a final copy presented at the meeting. Clerk-Treasurer informed the Council the Claim Docket was larger this time due to paying off a sewer bond.

A motion to approve the claim docket was made by Randy Rankin, seconded by Mike Baehl.



Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **PAYROLL ALLOWANCE DOCKET**

The Payroll Allowance Docket was emailed to the council members before the meeting for review.

Randy Rankin made a motion to approve the payroll allowance docket as presented. Mike Baehl seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Bank Reconciliations for July 2025 were provided to the Council via email prior to the meeting and presented in their entirety during the meeting.

A motion to approve the July 2025 Bank Reconciliations was made by Randy Rankin and seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

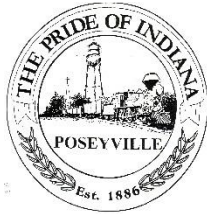
### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Baehl provided everyone with information about Relay for Life schedule on Saturday, August 16, 2025. 1:00 p.m. is the live auction. Please take some time out of your schedule to stop by Murphy Park in New Harmony to join in on the celebration.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution to Reclassify the Cemetery and Park Funds as Departments Under the General Fund in 2026.**

The Clerk-Treasurer presented Resolution No. 2025-08-14-01, Reclassifying the Cemetery and Park Funds as Departments Under the General Fund for Budget Year 2026. Each will continue to have its own departmental budget, but they will no longer be treated as separate taxing units since neither the Cemetery nor the Park has a separate town governing board.



A motion was made by Randy Rankin to pass Resolution 2025-08-14-01. Seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **Short-Term Agreement with Midwestern Engineers, Inc.**

A Short-Term Agreement Between the Town of Poseyville and Midwestern Engineers, Inc. was presented to the board to cover the LTAP certification process that is required for future grant submissions for local roads and streets.

A motion to sign the Short-Term Agreement was made by Mike Baehl, seconded by Randy Rankin

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Clerk-Treasurer presented to the Board quotes for Pest Control throughout the town-owned facilities. Providing them with a summary of services included for each building based on need. The Council felt the yearly service with Yikes Pest Control provided the best option for the town.

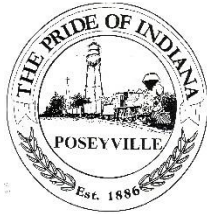
Mike Baehl made a motion to have Yike Pest Control provide services for all town facilities as listed in the quote for one year. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **Water Service Regulations Ordinance – First Reading**

President Rutledge presented Ordinance No. 2025-09-09-01, Water Service Regulations, for its first reading. The ordinance consolidates and updates several older ordinances, some dating back to 1939, which required revision due to outdated pipe regulations.

Attorney William Bender reported no concerns with the ordinance as drafted. The ordinance retains the current water rates but introduces increases to reconnection fees and adds several new fees related to business services.



Clerk-Treasurer Rankin expressed appreciation to Jeremy Farrar and Billye Robling for their extensive work in ensuring that all prior ordinances were incorporated and modernized in the new regulation.

The ordinance will be posted on the Town's website and Facebook page to notify the public of fee changes. Upon second reading, it will be published in the local newspaper as required by law.

Randy Rankin approved the first reading of Ordinance No. 2025-09-09-01, seconded by Mike Baehl.

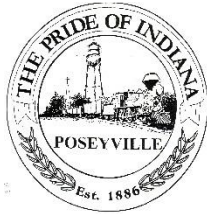
Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

President Rutledge explained to the audience that Randy and Jodie Rankin had been reaching out to county and state officials to discuss staggered elections for the Town Council and Clerk-Treasurer. Staggering elected positions would provide the town with some continuity during election changes. After research, if the elections were held in even years, there would be no cost to the town. In 2023, the election cost the town \$8,600.00, and the cost may be higher for the next election. The Council would need to pass an ordinance in 2026 stipulating that one or two positions in the 2027 election would be elected to a term of one year and that the remaining one or two positions would be elected to a term of three years. This would effectively move the town elections to the even years. Those with a one-year term would be on the ballot again in 2028 and those with a three-year term would be on the 2030 ballot. There is no action required at this time, but we want to keep the constituents informed.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Marshal Carter provided the Council with the monthly run report prior to the scheduled meeting.

As a reminder, school is back in session, so please be aware of stop arms and school traffic. Also, the change in North Elementary dismissal does have cars lined up down Fletchall Street so please be aware of this situation when traveling through town.



Marshal Carter did request permission to hold the Run from the Cop event at Halloween again this year. The Council requested that all participants sign waivers. No action was required.

Mr. Rutledge thanked Marshall Carter for the extra patrolling. He has received great feedback from the police presence. No action was required at this time.

The Posey County News reporter, Thersea Bratcher, asked about including the run report in the paper each month. The Council thought that would be a great idea. The Clerk-Treasurer will include the run report when sending the draft minutes to the paper. No action is required.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **EMS Billing Update**

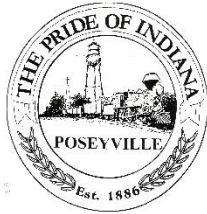
President Rutledge provided an update from EMS about the potential billing of medical supplies. Chief Kolley said he also got more guidance on what supplies we are required to buy. Chief Kolley noted the current budget amount meets the needs of supplies. President Rutledge requested that the Fire Department reach out to the Posey County Health Department for donations of items under current grant provisions. No action was required.

### **FireRecovery Billing Update**

Clerk-Treasurer Rankin explained that to seamlessly get the run system and the billing system to communicate would cost an additional \$1500.00 per year. The Town Hall is willing to work with the Fire Department on billing once runs are entered. The Town Hall will work with the Fire Department on a procedure to see if moving forward with the billing system is feasible. No action required by the Council.

### **Fire Department Computer Station**

Clerk-Treasurer Rankin advised the Council that the Town has purchased a new printer for the Fire Department. However, the existing computer at the fire station is outdated and cannot install Windows 11—or even connect to the new printer.



If the Town proceeds with replacing the computer at the fire station, it would fall under the Town's managed IT services—all intended to safeguard the Town's infrastructure.

- Passwords must be reset every thirty (30) days,
- All IT activity will be monitored, and
- Usage will be subject to access restrictions,

Alternatively, if the Fire Department prefers to avoid these restrictions, it may choose to purchase the computer using its own Volunteer Fire Department 501(c)(3) funds. If they do, the Town will continue to cover printing supplies, while the Fire Department will manage the computer independently.

Chief Kolley will discuss these options with the Fire Department membership and report back.

#### Flow Testing

Chief Kolley requested permission to flow test all the equipment, such as bottles, with an estimate of \$1500-\$2000.

Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the flow tests for the estimated amount of \$1,500.00 - \$2,000.00, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

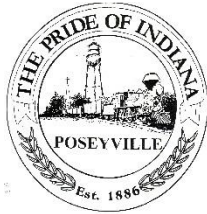
#### Container Box Request

Chief Kolley requested that the Town Council allow the Fire Department to acquire a 20 Ft container box for training purposes to be placed at the water tower lot. The Poseyville Volunteer Fire Department will make arrangements to have it moved at no cost.

Jeremy Farrar had not exceptions to the addition outside the fenced in area.

Randy Rankin made a motion to allow the Fire Department at not costs to add the 20ft container box, seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)



## UTILITY DEPARTMENTS

### Fluoridation Treatment

The Town Council was in agreement not to have Fluoride added to the drinking water system. Mr. Farrar indicated the Town Council would need to pass a Resolution to file with the Health Department. The Town Council will provide the resolution at the September 9, 2025, meeting. No further action was required.

### Gas Study Updates

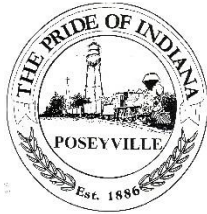
Jeremy Farrar and Clerk-Treasurer Jodie Rankin provided an update on the results of the Gas Study presented by USDI Representative, Darin Houchins.

Utility Superintendent Farrar explained that in order to maintain a viable gas utility, the Town must be able to cover all operational costs while also generating funds for future upgrades and maintenance. Mr. Houchins outlined how this can be accomplished by modifying the current billing system.

At present, gas bills are calculated on a quarterly tracker system that dates back to when the utility was under IURC management. The Town now has the flexibility to implement a monthly gas tracker, which would provide more accurate financial management and greater transparency for customers. Under the quarterly system, customers are locked into higher or lower rates for three months at a time, which can significantly impact large users such as those operating grain bin dryers. A Council member noted that while this can create hardships when rates are high, it can also benefit customers when rates fall.

Clerk-Treasurer Rankin reported that last winter the gas utility operating line balance dropped to \$4,200, underscoring the need for a more sustainable billing system. She further explained that USDI will provide the Town with a draft ordinance that incorporates facility charges, transportation fees, and a monthly gas tracking mechanism.

The Council unanimously agreed to move forward with the preparation of a new ordinance for first reading in September. Clerk-Treasurer Rankin will contact USDI to begin the process. No further action was required.



### Wastewater Treatment Plan Upgrades -High School project

Mr. Farrar and President Rutledge provided an update from a recent team meeting with the IFA, USDA, and all associated parties. The project is moving forward. The accountant is waiting on final numbers to finish the rate study. Since we just paid of one sewer bond, the rate study may come in favorable all parties. No action was required at this time.

### Drinking Water

Mr. Farrar requested that the Town share additional information with the public regarding the safety of the drinking water. He noted that some residents have expressed concern that nitrates may still be present in the system. The Town mailed the 2024 Drinking Water Quality Report to all customers, which confirmed that the water is safe. In addition, the Town has received 15 consecutive months of excellent test results. Mrs. Rankin will prepare a Facebook post to help share this information and reassure the community. No further action was required.

### STREET DEPARTMENTS

Clerk-Treasurer Rankin reported that funds are available in the budget to complete additional street patching within town. Mr. Farrar will coordinate with the contracted provider to schedule the remaining work.

### PARKS DEPARTMENT

None

### COMMUNITY CENTER

None

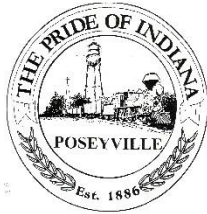
### CEMETERY

None

### NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled Town Council meeting is on September 9, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in person and via live stream.





A motion was made to hold the next meeting and adjourn at 7:20 p.m. on a motion from Mike Baehl, seconded by Randy Rankin, and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jodie Rankin, Clerk-Treasurer

**ATTEST:**

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Justin Rutledge, Council President