



TOWN OF SILVER LAKE

**USDA Rural Development Bond Application
Public Hearing Minutes**

January 14, 2026-7:00 PM

Silver Lake Town Hall, 604 N Jefferson St.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT: 7:00 PM

PRESENT:

- a) Elected Members: Medard (Hugh) Murfin, Nichole Taylor, Gloria (Jean) Weller (absent), Tonya Conley
- b) Department Heads: Jason McGlennen, Joey McNeal (absent), John Conley
- c) Attorney: Austin Rovenstine

USDA Rural Development Hearing:

Medard Murfin, Council President, opened the hearing and turned the floor over to Tonya Conley, Clerk-Treasurer, to discuss the bond application prior to public comment. She stated that the town was seeking to apply for funding to cover the remaining construction costs. The town has secured two-thirds of the funding through grants and donations, leaving a \$994,383.00 funding gap. Tonya opened the floor to anyone with questions, concerns, or statements.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Angel McGlennen said she had a few questions and asked whether citizens would be able to vote on this. Tonya stated that it wouldn't go to a referendum because it isn't the open market. USDA has a more cost-effective interest rate than the open market. Angel asked what would happen if the loan were defaulted on. Tonya stated that she would assume the state would come, but the town has never defaulted on anything. Later, Tonya stated that fundraising will not stop just because the town is applying for the bond. She went on to state that even after it opens, grants and fundraising will continue to support services and resources at the center. Angel went on to say that she was concerned with today's economy and utility bills increasing that this will raise taxes or bills. Tonya stated that water and sewer bills didn't have anything to do with the community center. Water doesn't pay for anything outside of water maintenance and operations, and sewer is the same. All three are

separate entities with different expenses that can't be used to cover one another. Tonya also stated that a bill was passed in Indiana that will provide additional property tax exemptions, resulting in lower property tax bills.

No other comments or questions were given from those present.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:

Nichole made the first motion to close the hearing at 7:08 PM. Medard made the second motion, and all in favor; the motion carried.

MOTION TO CONTINUE:

Medard then asked Nichole whether she would like to make a motion to proceed with the application. Nichole moved to sign and submit the application to USDA Rural Development. Medard seconded, noting that it would benefit the town to have one and that he had donated to the center himself. Medard then made the all-in-favor call and passed the motion.

Hugh and Nichole signed the appropriate documents.

Medard Murfin, Council President

Tonya Conley, Clerk-Treasurer