



TOWN OF SILVER LAKE

Regular Public Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2026-7:00 PM

Silver Lake Town Hall, 604 N Jefferson St.

I. MEETING OPENED AT: 7:00 PM

II. PRESENT:

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

III. **DETERMINATION HEARING:** Joseph and Jennifer Fugate appeared before the town council regarding the determination of ongoing repairs to the porch area of their property located at 208 E. Main St., Silver Lake. The council agreed that sufficient progress had been made on the issue and that a railing should be finished, addressing their concerns. Due to health reasons, they are unable to complete the porch as they originally designed it at this time. The Fugate's agreed to complete the railing, and members of the community have offered help. The outcome was that Nichole made the first motion to allow a six-month time frame, with the determination to be made at the October meeting. Hugh agreed and gave the all-in-favor call; the motion carried. It was also agreed that Joe and Jennifer could submit a letter in place of an in-person meeting in October, due to ongoing medical treatment.

IV. **GUESTS:** Kristin Rude, coordinator for Kosciusko Area Bus Service (KABS), addressed the council regarding a survey to assess the needs of bus services for Silver Lake and Claypool. She stated that a Pilot service has been started in Nappanee and is going well, and they would like to investigate doing something for the southern Kosciusko area as well. An online survey will help them determine the best course of action. The council took flyers and pamphlets to hand out to citizens.

Anyone interested in transportation or in doing the survey can stop by town hall for more information or visit www.kabsbus.com.

V. **MEETING MINUTES:**

April 8, 2026, regular public meeting minutes, April 22, 2026, Special Meeting Canine Determination minutes, and April 28, 2026, Special Meeting Community Center Bid Opening minutes were approved, with Nichole making the first motion, Hugh giving the all-in-favor call, and the motion carried.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**

a) **Boat Launch-Shutt Ave: Herb Manifold, Ecosystems Connections**

Institute, LLC, has been working on the boat launch project. He received three quotes for upgrading the site; they are as follows:

1. **I-Tech Builders \$35,000.00**
2. **Lawson, Inc. \$37,800.00**
3. **Hohman Excavating \$23,840.00.**

Tonya told the council that, with the community center project, the town can put \$20,000.00 toward the upgrade, but donations will need to be raised to cover the remaining costs. Brett Burch said he is appreciative of the amount the town is willing to help, and the Silver Lake Foundation is also willing to help. He stated he would reach out to Tonya and that they could develop a fundraising plan. Hugh Murfin offered a \$500.00 donation, and Jason Shelton stated he is willing to approach citizens and some business owners about donations as well. Before the council approves any quotes, Herb stated that diesel prices had really driven up the costs of these projects. He stated that the project should start around mid-July if approved. The DNR permit does not expire until 2028, so if there is a need to wait, it will still be valid for a couple of years. Nichole made the first motion to accept the quote from Hohman Excavating for \$23840.00 upon receipt of all funding. Hugh seconded and gave the all-in-favor call; the motion carried.

b) **Community Center Recommendation Letter and Tentative Bid Award:**

Tonya relayed to the council that all the money has been raised to accept the bid recommended by Hoch and Associates. With just under two million dollars in grant funding and just under \$900,000.00 in private donations, leaving the rest to come from town cash reserves the town has enough to

move forward. The town will not need to borrow funds for this project. The bids came in as follows:

1. FCI Construction: Base \$3,590,000.00 with alternates which brings the total to **\$3,790,395.00**.
2. Hamilton Hunter Builders: Base \$3,929,674.00 with alternates, which brings the total to \$4,096,816.10.

Hoch and Associates recommended FCI Construction as the lowest, most responsible, and responsive bidder, including alternates in the bidding process. Nichole made the first motion to tentatively accept the FCI bid, subject to the release of OCRA funds. Hugh seconded and made the all-in-favor call; the motion carried. Austin reminded that a motion should be made allowing Hugh (Medard) to execute construction contracts once the funds are released. Nichole made the first motion to allow Hugh, Council President, to sign contract documents. Hugh seconded, and all in favor, motion carried. Tonya wanted to let the council know that she received an email from the Kosciusko County Community Foundation that they had met and would like to give a proactive grant of an additional \$10,000.00 to the town. She also heard from Ford Philanthropy Foundation, which is donating \$10,000.00 for signage.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **Resolution 26-01-05 Canine Donation Fund** was approved by Nichole, making the first motion, Hugh seconded, and gave the all in favor call, motion carried. Hugh previously explained the addition of a canine to the police force.
- b) **The Eldora Drive flooding issue** was discussed. Property owners had filed complaints about flooding from the lake onto the street. They are asking the town for help with something to be done. Much discussion took place about the county commissioners owning the street and the IDNR's dam renovations, which could have caused further issues in the area. Joe, Town Superintendent, spoke about a specific way the street could be paved to help address the issue, but it would be very costly. Tonya stated that maybe the county commissioners would be willing to go in half since they own the street, but we have in-town citizens who live there, and we have maintained it for years. She stated that Joe or a council member should reach out to them and check if that would be possible.

VIII. **CITIZEN COMMENTS/CONCERNS:**

Nick Gordon approached the council about going in half on repaving an extension of Columbia St. that leads to his drive. He showed a map of where he was speaking for a visual to the council. He also showed the council a copy of the survey he had completed, which showed where the street was and his property. He received a quote from Super Seal for \$ 9,990.00. Austin, the town attorney, stated that it would be a good idea to draft an agreement before any repaving occurs. Nick and the council mutually agreed. The council agreed to pay 50% of \$9,990.00, with Nichole making the first motion, Hugh seconding, and all in favor; motion carried. Nichole then made a motion for Hugh to sign the agreement without a special meeting. Hugh seconded, and all in favor; the motion carried. Austin will prepare the agreement.

IX. **DEPT. HEAD REPORTS:**

a) **Jason McGlennen, Marshal:**

- Call history was given to the council.
- Jason informed the council that Kole is training with K-9 and will have a lot of overtime. Tonya stated that the policy states ten, and the council must approve the rest. She stated she would not pay anything over ten without the council's approval, and it was in the meeting minutes. Nichole made the first motion to approve the overtime while training and to have Tonya pay the submitted overtime. Hugh seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.
- Jason asked the council if they would like to rebid the mowing this year or keep it with the same vendor. Nothing was determined.
- The Marshal's department found a cage for the patrol car for the K-9. The cost is \$1500.00 for the used cage. It will also cost to have it installed. The council gave permission to purchase the cage.

c) **Joey McNeal, Superintendent:**

- The mosquito sprayer was calibrated to start spraying soon.

d) **John Conley, Fire Chief**

- Gave the council a run report showing 9 callouts since the last meeting.
- John spoke about the golf outing being the last week of June. Joey asked if the town was going to put teams in this year. Tonya stated she hasn't received a donation letter. John gave her a letter for the council to approve at the June meeting.

X. **CLAIM DOCKET:**

Nichole made the first motion to accept the claim docket in the amount of **\$160730.93**. Hugh seconded, and Hugh made the all-in-favor call; the motion carried.

XI. **LETTERS:**

Letters were received from the citizens requesting adjustments due to water leaks. The adjustments allowed are as follows:

- Timothy Miller-\$526.18 water and \$370.87 sewer

The leak has been fixed. The council approved the adjustments as calculated, with Nichole making the first motion, Hugh seconding, and Hugh calling for all in favor; the motion carried.

XII. **MISCELLANEOUS:**

1. An Executive Session meeting is set for June 2, 2026, at 4:30 pm at the town hall.
2. The next regular meeting will be held at the town hall on June 10, 2026, beginning at 7:00 pm.

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Nichole made the first motion to adjourn at 7:57 pm. Hugh seconded the motion, and Hugh called for all in favor. The motion carried.

Medard Murfin, Council President

Tonya Conley, Clerk-Treasurer

