

Dillsboro Town Council

January 12, 2026

Town of Dillsboro Council meetings are live-streamed and archived on dillsboro.in as required by law.

The regular meeting of the Dillsboro Town Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on January 12, 2026 by Council President, Tim Benning, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council present: Tim Benning, Becky Fryman, Charlie Caldwell, Jerri Jackson and Dustin Kitchell.
Attorney present: John Watson.

2026 Appointment of Officers. CM Fryman nominated CM Benning for president, seconded by CM Jackson. The motion carried unanimously. CM Jackson nominated CM Fryman for vice president, seconded by CM Caldwell. The motion carried unanimously.

CM Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on December 1, 2025. Seconded by CM Kitchell. All were in favor, motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer – Rita Stevens

Fund balanced (as of December 31, 2025): General is \$200,851.57. Water Operating Fund is \$175,567.03. Sewer Operating Fund is \$285,264.39.

Elected officials needs to fill out the Report of Receipts and Expenditures of a Political Committee (CFA-4) by January 21 and send to Wendy Beatty at the Courthouse.

Town Manager, Derek Walker, asked if Jucinda Willoughby that took over Tom Wafford position last year on the Redevelopment Commission, will Jucinda need to be sworn in again. Wafford's term ended in 2025. Attorney Watson stated don't think it is necessary if started a new term.

Police Department – Josh Cady, Police Chief

Cady presented to council the Total Incidents Report for 2025 in the county. It shows that Dillsboro Police Department, the productivity compared to the other agencies. Dillsboro were the highest agency as far of incidents per officer and Aurora is close.

Cady stated the camera system at the town hall is not working and the one at the sewer plant is not recording. Received a quote for a new camera system at the town hall for \$6,200 with 8 cameras and 16 channel system. Being a 16 channel the town could always add more cameras. The sewer plant would probably be the same. Cady will get a quote for the sewer plant and present it at the February meeting. TM Walker stated there is a budget for facility maintenance. CM Jackson made a motion to move forward of purchasing the new cameras at the town hall, seconded by CM Caldwell. All were in favor, motion carried.

Cady stated the laptops in the two police cars needs to be replaced. Cady having problems with his. My IT Place quoted \$10,000-\$15,000 for the two laptops. Cady got a price from Dell, which the police department already has so the mounting and docking stations will still work for a price of

\$5,500. TM Walker stated there is \$5,000 budgeted in the General Capital Improvement fund for the police department laptops. CM Kitchell made a motion to approve the purchase of two laptops for \$5,500 with \$5,000 coming from the Capital Improvement funds. Seconded by CM Jackson. All were in favor, motion carried.

Aurora EMS – Charlie Jackson

C. Jackson stated in 2025, the Responder 5 had 419 medical calls with 11 of them being cardiac arrest. In December there was a total of 55 calls. Since the Responder 5 vehicle is indoors, the response time have been quicker since the medicine and a bunch of equipment don't have to be put into the vehicle.

Attorney Watson wanted to verify a few questions. So the Responder 5 did 419 medical calls which 55 of them was in December. And asked C. Jackson when the Responder 5 was placed in Dillsboro. C. Jackson stated in April of 2025. Attorney Watson did say this would be the calls the Dillsboro Ambulance Unit should and would have answered to. And with 55 calls in December, the average for a full year is 660.

Beautification – Charlie Caldwell stated nothing to report.

Park Board

TM Walker stated the Park Board is still working on the pickleball courts, that is the big project for 2026. Also the board changed their meeting date to the second Tuesday of the month.

Main Street – Kami Hamilton, Executive Director

The Indiana Main Street On-Site Accreditation visit has been rescheduled for February 13 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Two focus groups has 4 people each and can use a couple more and if any council member would like to be on a focus group, please let K. Hamilton know.

Our Hometown Christmas was great and received a lot of good feedback. There was over 50 vendors for the Winter Market. The kids craft table was sold out.

Main Street is planning on hosting an Easter egg hunt at the Dillsboro Park on March 28. There will be different times for different age groups, possibly have a visit from the Easter bunny and some face painting.

Attorney John Watson

Regarding the Dillsboro Emergency Ambulance Unit (DEAU), the State of Indiana have reached an Agreed Preliminary Injunction with DEAU. It is stating the DEAU won't sell or transfer or get rid of anything. It has been 10 months since the preliminary injunction was filled, so the agreement doesn't cover the 10 months. So if something is gone, it is gone. The State will file a motion to do a scheduling order to set the final hearing.

Andy Baudendistel, County Attorney, contacted Attorney Watson regarding the Interlocal Agreement proposal, the 911 dispatch services agreement. This is the same agreement as last year. Instead of a three year agreement, it is a year agreement. Dillsboro was the only one that didn't sign the 3 year agreement. Senator Mark Spencer, authored and introduced Senate Bill 273 that it raises 911 fee statewide from \$1 to \$2. Our Senator, John Maxwell, is on the same committee and supports it. There is a short session that should end the end of February, and need to see if this bill progresses. This could change the numbers, so the town has until August 1st to sign the agreement.

Town Manager – Derek Walker

Dillsboro Civic Club has scheduled their Summer Concert Series dates for June 20, July 18, August 15 and September 19.

The road projects with having no invoices, but pay applications have been submitted for the Community Crossing Matching (CCMG) project, \$110,000 was included in the 2025 Riverboat budget. These funds were unspent and remain in the Riverboat fund and were not budget in 2026. There will be an additional appropriation to reappropriate these funds for 2026.

The council should be aware of a long-term financial issue for the council related to Senate Bill 1 (SB1), which was passed last year is now beginning to affect local government revenues across Indiana. This will reduce the growth of property tax revenue for local government over time. The key component of SB1 is a shift toward local income tax (LIT) as a replacement revenue tool. However, under the new law, small municipalities like Dillsboro are not eligible to adopt or increase a municipal income tax on their own. Dillsboro is entirely reliant on Dearborn County for any income tax revenue through the countywide LIT structure. Any future increases, reallocations, or changes to LIT revenue that may offset property tax impacts will be county decisions, not the town decisions. This creates an added layer of uncertainty and reduces our direct control over future revenue growth. This does require the town to be more conservative and intentional with long-term planning.

TM Walker reviewed the Dillsboro Annual Drinking Water Report for the year. The town actually sold a little bit more water in 2025 then 2024.

TM Walker also reviewed the Annual Sewer Report. The average per day is \$146,000 gallons. The biggest day was over a million, so that shows some infiltration issues the town has. The lowest day was 60,000 gallons.

TM Walker highlighted some goals and objectives for this year.

The road work, got started on it late last year on Western Row, Guion Street and Main Street. Rohe contracts for that to be completed by May 1. Probably will not start until April, weather permitting.

There is a couple sewer main repairs that was camera about a year and half ago. There is one on Wood Street and one on Rose Street where there is some damage to the sewer main.

Transferring the Lenover property to the Redevelopment Commission. The property was surveyed. This will be on the agenda at the Redevelopment Commission this month, so we can start accepting offers on it.

At the sewer plant, the clarifier tanks, there is a steel skimmer system that needs to be drained, clean-up and repainted.

The Dearborn County Sewer District, their sewer main has been constructed through the plant but haven't made the connection. They are potentially having flow coming into the plant as early as March. So the sewer rate ordinance needs to have their rate established, but should not be any increase for the town customers.

The North Street Property (Shoe Shop Building), once the Lenover Street property, need to figure out what the town wants to do with this property this year.

The pickleball courts is expected to start in May and be done in July.

At the lift stations, there is an issue of some of the existing pumps, they don't make them anymore. Looking at upgrading one of the stations to an efficient pump. Planning on doing one at a time.

There is some dead end water mains, these mains is used if there is a break, need to open the main up and flush it out. There are some of our mains that needs to be added, where there is a good way to flush the main if there is an issue. A big one is on Spangler Road where the town does our periodic water quality testing on that line.

The storm sewer on Central Avenue that was talked about last year. The catch basin by the church is getting pretty bad, so planning on addressing that this year.

Stellar: OCRA Sidewalk Project is going to happen this summer.

There is also some small sidewalk connections, that the town could handle in a small contract. One is on Front Street at the town hall, Short Street to Bank Street intersection and then there is a section on Front Street across from Catalpa Street that has kind of sunken in.

Water tank rehab, this is a longer-term project that the town will be working towards. Target date is in 2027.

The Community Crossing Grant for Bank Street was submitted but has been denied. There was quite a few of them around the state and TM Walker thinks the state is cutting back on some of their transportation funds. But will be resubmitting it in the summer.

This summer do some more sewer camera (CCTV) inspection work, Holland Street to North Street, concerns raise from residents.

Resurface some of the streets out on the westside of town, Lake Drive, Erie Drive and Superior Drive. This would involve some sort formalized agreement with the private owner, pay for improvements and town accept responsibility.

Install flush hydrants on all dead-end mains. Hon Road, Campo Verde Drive, Highridge Road, Sycamore Street, West Adams Street, 9571 SR 62, Eggleston Street, Jennifer Street and Cedarwood Lane.

Permanent stage at the concert lot, inquiring about a T-Mobile grant and just scale that project back a little bit.

Replace the valves on Texas Gas water main.

Equipment needs to be considered. Sewer camera, new on-call Utility Truck 1-ton, boom mounted brush cutter, mower, skid steer and paint sprayer for curbs and hydrants.

Old Business (TM Walker)

Stellar: OCRA Sidewalk Project – Preliminary Plan Review

Corey Pressler, HWC Engineer, attended online. TM Walker and C. Pressler gave an brief overview of the project streets of Spangler Street, Main Street, Rullman Drive, Lenover Street, Western Row, Central Avenue, Miller Street, SR 62 and North Street. The bidding in April and the latest is in June. The total project cost is \$1.3 million. The grant is 1.25 million and the town is required to match 20%. After much discussion with council, regarding changes of the sidewalks & etc., it was decided to meet on January 19 after the Executive Meeting. And will be able to get back with C. Pressler on January 20.

New Business (TM Walker)

Board & Commission Member Reappointments

TM Walker gave council a list of the 2026 Meeting Schedules. The Town Appointments of Derek Walker to the Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (SIRPC) Representative. (attached) And Josh Cady to the Dearborn County Emergency Management Advisory Board. The present members of the town boards will be the same - Advisory Plan Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Redevelopment Commission (1 vacancy) and Park Board. CM Kitchell made a motion to approve 2026 boards and commission members, seconded by CM Fryman. All were in favor, motion carried.

CCMG 2024-2 Change Order #2 – Guion Street Sidewalk Construction Engineering

This is for construction engineering. The contractors will have a surveyor come and stake everything out. There was some issues on Guion Street with a storm sewer. TM Walker did work with them to make the change on-site, so that avoided ripping everything back out. Also, in the

middle of the project, there was substantial amount of construction engineering. TM Walker recommends to wait until the contractor gives the change order with information.

Solid Waste Contract

The Rumpke contract will be expiring July 31, 2026. TM Walker started working on a draft and can be discussed at the February meeting, then advertise and hopefully approved at the May meeting. Some communities have Rumpke do heavy trash pick-up, that might be something to consider. Customer would have to call Rumpke and this might be a way to some of the issues the town has had. Especially customers taking advantage of the heavy trash pick-up.

The town also has a separate agreement with Rumpke for a 30-yard dumpster at the sewer plant. This might be good to have it with the contract also and the town could get a better cost.

General Laborer Position

It is in the budget to hire a general laborer, possible post it in March, interview in April and hire in May.

Utility Truck

TM Walker stated the town has nine vehicles, they are getting older and it is probably time to start getting a newer one every other year. Looking at a Ford F350 to haul equipment and put the snow plow on it. Found a 2025 for \$45,000 but has sold. A 2026 models is around \$60,000. Just something the town needs to do so in three to five years the town will not be buying several vehicles at one time.

2026 Election

CT Stevens stated the 2026 election filings has opened up and will end on February 6 at noon. CT Stevens stated that she is not running for the Clerk-Treasurer in the election this year. It is going to have to be somebody responsible of the town funds, lives in town and able to keep the office open. CM Fryman asked if the person would have to also do the utility clerk. CT Stevens states all the money corresponds together, the town funds and the utility funds. And recommends having one person do the Clerk-Treasurer and Utility Clerk job because this has been done with the previous clerk-treasurer and CT Stevens. Attorney Watson did state the Clerk-Treasurer does have authority to hire a staff but the council has to approve the budget and there is a lot of liability with the job.

ClarkDietz Vision Study

TM Walker presented to council the vision study from ClarkDietz for the North Street Streetscaping project. This is their guide to the design and they will be asking council of any changes they want in February.

Public Comment

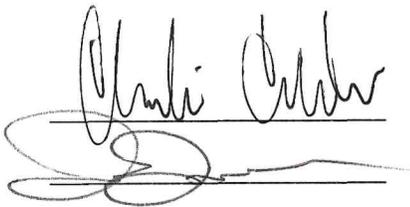
CM Fryman asked when Guion Street is going to be a two-way street? TM Walker stated there is some concerns with it and Steve Williams would like it a one way, but the design is for a two-way. The contractor could have made it more noticeable that it is a two-way. There is stop signs on both ends but one is temporary at the end of the street towards Lenover.

It was also stated the street going to the IGA needs to be a one way and also at Holland Drive.

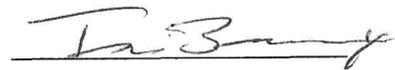
J. Cady recommends lowering the speed limit on Lenover Street to 30 mph.

CM Benning announced a Executive Meeting on February 19 at 6:30 p.m. and will have a Special Meeting at 7:00 p.m. regarding the feed back for the sidewalk design project.

There being no further business. CM Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m., seconded by CM Jackson. Motion carried unanimously.



Rita Stevens, Clerk-Treasurer



MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that Derek Walker has been duly appointed by the Town of Dillsboro to serve as a voting member of the Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission until December 31, 2026, or until a successor has been duly appointed and qualified.

Please provide contact information and the occupation of the person you are appointing:

Appointee Name : Derek Walker
Email Address : manager@townofdillsboro.com
Mailing Address: 13030 Executive Dr.
Mailing City, State, Zip Dillsboro, IN, 47018
Phone Number: 812-432-9002
Occupation: Town Manager

Is this appointee an elected official? Yes or No

Dated this 12 day of JANUARY, 2026.

Signed:

<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>

Note: If appointing body is the County Commissioners, County Council, or Town Council, all members of the body should execute the above. If the appointing body is a City, then the Mayor should execute the above.