

TOWN OF ST. JOE, INDIANA

TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2026

The regular meeting of the St. Joe Town Board was called to order 6:30pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary Simcox presented the DeKalb County Economic Development July 2026 meeting report on behalf of Director Colin Price: • Governor Braun visited Enzyme Solutions in Garrett to discuss environmentally branded cleaning products. • Vulcraft is planning a approximately \$50 million investment in a steel-breaking manufacturing facility; the company is finalizing a site decision, expected by the end of that week (see related rezoning approved at the August 11, 2026 meeting). • Mac Allister CAT is launching a "Next Generation Diesel Technician" dual-credit program with area high schools, with a launch/open house planned for early August at East Side High School. • Business retention and expansion contacts continued in July. • Quality-of-Life Land Restoration Project: herbicide application at the restoration site was completed this month; the Cal County Soil and Water Conservation District (Bill Ward) is reviewing paid invoices previously submitted (engineering and related fees) for possible grant reimbursement; the project remains in pursuit of additional public and private grant funding. • Cal County Trails (Auburn Station) July meeting: the June 27 Trek to Trails ride was well attended; the trail group plans to have a display at an upcoming student event and at the AC Festival; a planning meeting with landowners along the anticipated trail route is being scheduled. Mary clarified for residents that survey stakes recently observed along Jefferson Street relate to the Town's water main project, not the Quality-of-Life Land Restoration project.

The Board discussed coordination between the Town's Jefferson Street water main project and the separate wetland/embankment project, including concerns about potential damage to existing sidewalks where contractor equipment will need to access the work area, and the width and placement of the water line relative to the road edge and future curb work. The Board confirmed that any damage to sidewalks caused by the water project is the Town's responsibility to repair, and that Jefferson Street remains one of the roads planned for future full reconstruction, at which point the water line's position will be accounted for.

The Board also discussed the railroad-crossing bore permitting process required for utility work near the tracks (similar to a prior Town project), noted that the contractor plans to begin work on Jefferson Street the next day to stay clear of the concurrent 3rd Street and wetland projects, and directed that the Clerk-Treasurer coordinate public notice (e.g., via Facebook) about upcoming construction activity in the area. No formal action was taken; discussion only.

Remote Deposit Scanner. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the check-deposit scanner has been ordered and that the Town has enrolled with the U.S. Treasury to use the associated remote deposit service; the system is expected to be operational by the end of the month. No action was taken; informational update.

Town Attorney Search. The Clerk-Treasurer reported she had reached out to both previously discussed attorney candidates but had not yet received a response from either. She will continue to follow up on their availability and will coordinate a joint meeting or properly noticed executive session once a response is received.

Leighly Hall (Community Building) Ceiling Tiles. The Town employee reported the replacement ceiling tiles have been ordered, with pick expected around August 28, 2026, at the previously quoted price. Installation may be deferred to a winter project. Staff is also researching heavier-duty ceiling hangers after finding additional loose spots (not yet fallen) elsewhere in the building during a walk-through; whether additional trim/backing repair is needed at those spots remains under review.

3rd Street Water Project. Staff reported that trees to be removed for the 3rd Street project have been marked, and that work could begin as early as the following Monday.

Jeff Powell Easement / Park Steps. The Clerk-Treasurer confirmed the adjoining property owner's attorney will prepare the easement/ownership paperwork needed for the future sidewalk; no additional Town action is required for the previously permitted steps.

Vulcraft Rezoning / Tax Abatement. Mary reported that the Zoning Board approved the related redistricting and that DeKalb County has approved an associated tax abatement; the Town is awaiting the signed county ordinance, expected to be presented at a future meeting.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented the resolution establishing and revising the schedule of interment, opening/closing, and burial-space fees for Riverside Cemetery, St. Joe, Indiana, for first reading. The resolution had been previously distributed to the Board and posted publicly, with copies available in the Clerk-Treasurer's office upon request.

Misty Spicer motion to approve the first reading of the resolution establishing and revising the schedule of interment fees and burial space fees for Riverside Cemetery, St. Joe, Indiana. Zebulon Griggs seconded. Motion carried unanimously. A public hearing on the resolution remains scheduled for the Board's first regular meeting in September 2026, as previously set.

Randy Drake motion to accept the Town Board meeting minutes of August 11, 2026. Misty Spicer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Misty Spicer motion to accept the July Water Works vouchers in the amount of \$85,535.76.

Randy Drake seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Misty Spicer motion to accept the general vouchers in the amount of \$29,418.83. Zebulon Griggs seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

In discussing the general vouchers, the Board noted the Town's hourly cemetery labor budget will need to increase to reflect pay increases and an anticipated higher workload this year from ongoing water main projects and an increased volume of Indiana 811 utility locate requests. The Board also noted that telephone/internet costs are expected to decrease once current fiber/internet buildout work for installation town is complete.

Misty Spicer motion to accept the appropriation report for July. Randy Drake seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Misty Spicer motion to accept the Bank 0 (General) fund report for July in the amount of \$1,105,075.48. Zebulon Griggs seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Misty Spicer motion to accept the Bank 2 (Water) fund report for July in the amount of \$152,460.10. Zebulon Griggs seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Clerk-Treasurer reported a local church requested use of the Town office/meeting space (rather than the rental hall) for a meeting, in order to use the television, and asked whether that use would be acceptable to the Board at the standard rental fee, with the Clerk-Treasurer present to unlock and supervise the space. The Board indicated no objection, noting Town records remain publicly accessible in any case and the office is monitored by camera.

The Board also discussed relocating the Town's existing (non-"smart") television from the office to the main rental hall so renters can use it directly, using the Town's existing projector/AV equipment rather than purchasing new equipment, with placement on the interior (west) wall away from the window and away from the restroom area, near existing electrical outlets. The Board reached consensus to have staff move the TV to the main hall within approximately two weeks, by September 3, 2026, after which the church's meeting could take place in the main hall under the standard hall rental fee. No formal motion was recorded; general consensus of the Board.

Staff reported the portable hydrant flow meter has been received and is available for use whenever an outside party (e.g., a contractor or other utility) draws water from a Town hydrant.

Randy Drake motion that the water main project contractor be charged, at the Town's established water usage fees, for any water drawn from Town hydrants for the water main project. Zebulon Griggs seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff also confirmed the Town bills neighboring fire-protection jurisdictions monthly for non-emergency use (e.g., training) of Town fire hydrants/water, while emergency use is not separately billed, consistent with the Town's existing emergency fire-service arrangement.

The Board discussed resident concerns about grass clippings and yard debris being blown or swept into streets and storm drains, creating potential road hazards and contributing to drainage and algae-bloom concerns. Staff noted that while there is no statewide law directly banning this practice, DeKalb County and its municipalities treat yard debris left in the roadway as a public hazard or nuisance, and that a property owner may bear liability for hazards created by debris placed in the road. The Clerk-Treasurer agreed to prepare a public-awareness flyer and social media post on the issue, and offered to research a potential town ordinance addressing yard debris in roadways if the Board wishes to pursue one. No formal action was taken.

A local business owner raised concerns that the Town's WatchNet Wi-Fi service (provided to certain local businesses via the Town's tower-lease arrangement) has become unreliable and insufficient for credit card processing and other business needs, and asked whether the Town could explore extending its newer Surf internet service to local businesses in a similar arrangement. Staff explained the Town currently receives five free WatchNet connections in exchange for allowing WatchNet equipment on the Town's tower, but has no comparable equipment-based arrangement with Surf. The Board discussed a possible point-to-point connection from a tall Town-owned building to distribute Surf service to nearby Town buildings, and the Clerk-Treasurer agreed to ask Surf whether redistributing service to other buildings is permitted under the Town's agreement, and to report back. No formal action was taken.

A. Greenway Cultural Event Proposal. Resident Rick Meyer of Hicksville presented an idea to organize a cultural/arts/music festival along the Greenway trail, including vendor displays, education booths, and possible canoe/kayak activities, without alcohol. The Board discussed that most of the Greenway property is held under an irrevocable trust (St. Joseph River Park, Inc.) associated with the school, with an active community foundation endowment for maintenance, and advised Mr. Meyer to contact the school administration (including new principal Nick Byrd) regarding use of the property, offering to help provide contact information and a resource identifying property owners along the river. The Board expressed general support for pursuing community events along the Greenway. No formal action was taken.

Mary Simcox additionally reported that Cal County Trails data shows approximately 1,900 monthly user counts on the River Greenway trail.

Financial Reporting – Revenue Disclosure Request. A resident requested that the Board resume a past practice of reading revenue figures (month-to-date and year-to-date), not just balances and disbursements, into the record for each fund report, to allow the public to reconcile changes in fund balances over time. The resident referenced an apparent gap between previously reported and current fund balances for the General and Water funds and asked the Board to explain it. The Clerk-Treasurer explained that each fund report includes a beginning-of-year balance, revenue and disbursements year-to-date, a beginning-of-month balance, revenue and disbursements month-to-date, and a current balance, separated by Bank 0 (General) and Bank 2 (Water), and that historically only the current balance, disbursed amount, and a separately signed accounts-receivable figure have been read into the minutes. The Board agreed to begin reading the full revenue figures aloud as part of the motion to approve each fund report going forward.

State Board of Accounts Audit – Follow-Up. Following up on the prior meeting's public comment regarding the Town's State Board of Accounts (SBOA) audit, the Clerk-Treasurer reported that the SBOA responded that the audit's adverse-opinion language reflects the fact that the Town, like many small Indiana municipalities, uses cash-basis accounting under the regulatory basis of accounting prescribed by the Indiana State Board of Accounts (Indiana Code 5-11-1-6), rather than full accrual-based Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), and is not an indication of fraud or missing funds. The same resident also read a further SBOA response regarding public transparency and the process for filing a complaint with the State Board of Accounts if a resident believes an elected official is not sufficiently transparent, and reiterated that his questions regarding financial oversight had been directed to the Board rather than to the Clerk-Treasurer individually. Board members and the Clerk-Treasurer discussed the exchange; the Board expressed support for the Clerk-Treasurer and asked that questions and responses continue to be handled respectfully by all parties. No formal action was taken.

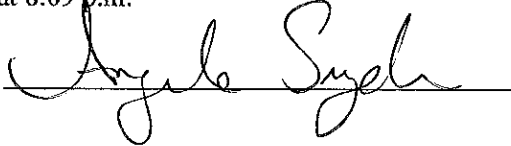
Business Cards. The Clerk-Treasurer requested that each Board member confirm what contact information (phone and/or email) they would like listed on Town-issued business cards.

SRF Documentation. The Clerk-Treasurer confirmed that required invoices, photographs, and dates supporting water repair reimbursement requests have been submitted to the State Revolving Fund program; no outstanding items are expected.

Truck Bed Replacement. The need to replace the Town truck bed (previously reported as reinforced with welded steel) was again noted; a Board member offered the possible short-term use of a personal farm truck if needed. No action was taken.

Misty Spicer motion to adjourn meeting Randy Drake seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

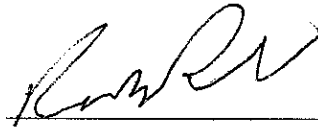
Respectfully submitted:



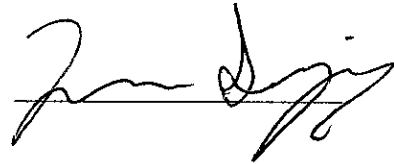
Angela Snyder, Clerk Treasurer



Misty Spicer, President



Randy Drake, Member



Zebulon Griggs, Member