

MONON TOWN COUNCIL
Budget Workshop
July 8, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room

The Monon Town Council met for a budget workshop on July 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Monon Town Hall Conference Room, 422 N. Market Street, Monon, Indiana. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss departmental needs and priorities for development of the 2027 budget. No official action was taken.

Members present: President Ken Hickman, Vice President Ron Benakovich, Toni Onken, Jamie Myers and Clerk-Treasurer Annette Sipkema. Chris Franklin was absent.

Department Heads present: Town Marshal Roger Young, Superintendent Tracy Anderson, Fire Chief Sean Garrett and Park Board President Dianna Tribbett.

Also in attendance were Linda Melton, Park Board Vice President and Jacob Garling, Township Trustee.

Financial Overview.....Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema presented a financial overview for 2027 budget planning, including:

- The maximum property tax levy for 2027 is 6% (compared to the previous two years at 4%).
- Local Income Tax (LIT) revenue is estimated at approximately \$620,000 which will be deposited into the General Fund.
- The estimated property tax levy is approximately \$642,117, to be distributed among the General, Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH), Park, and Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) funds.
- The General Fund cash reserve has improved to 17.4% from 12% in 2022, but remains below the recommended reserve level (35%)
- MVH reserves have remained relatively stable at 22.4%.
- **Park Fund Reserve:** Discussion was held regarding the ongoing decline of Park cash reserves, which has dropped from 39% in 2022 to 29.7% in 2025. To address this shortfall, the Clerk-Treasurer suggested either reducing the Park's Capital Improvement budget or increasing the Park's allocation of the tax levy. It was noted that adjusting the tax levy allocation would subsequently reduce available revenues for both the General and Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) funds.

Department Budget Discussions

1. **Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH)...**Superintendent Anderson discussed the need to replace the aging John Deere tractor currently used for sidewalk snow removal. The Council reviewed several multi-purpose equipment options, including Bad Boy, Ventrac, and Avant units. Discussion focused on purchasing equipment capable of performing multiple functions throughout the year rather than a machine dedicated solely to snow removal. Estimated costs ranged from approximately \$30,000 to \$60,000.

Clerk Sipkema stated that she would like to increase the MVH fuel budget to better allocate shared fuel expenses among the General, water, and wastewater departments (from 3,000 to 3,500).

2. **Water & Wastewater.....**Superintendent Anderson stated that the current water softener system has suffered automation failures and currently requires manual operation. It faces potential shutdown or replacement in the near future.
 - **Full Replacement Quotes:** \$60,100 (excluding installation) up to **\$116,000** (including installation).
 - **Alternative Repair Option:** Superintendent Anderson is currently waiting on a quote from Lee Milling, who may be able to repair specific automation components at a lower cost.

Superintendent Anderson requested council to consider purchasing 100 new radio-read meters and transmitters to continue upgrading outdated town infrastructure, presenting a

quote for \$37,200. This proposal aims to sustain progress on the town's meter replacement initiative.

3. **Fire Department.....**Fire Chief Sean Garrett reviewed future capital needs, including:
 - Long-term replacement of the department's rescue/pumper apparatus (estimate \$550,000).
 - Financing options and potential cost-sharing opportunities with the township.
 - Floating tank (\$2000-\$4000)
 - Increasing annual capital improvement funding to better prepare for future equipment replacement.
 - Purchase of additional water supply equipment and adapters to improve emergency response while reducing replacement costs.
4. **Police Department.....**Town Marshal Roger Young discussed:
 - Future police vehicle replacement planning utilizing trade-in values to reduce replacement costs.
 - Current vehicle repair expenses.
 - Replacement of an aging in-car computer with a ruggedized laptop compatible with existing emergency service equipment (~\$3,000).
5. **Park Department.....**Park Board President Dianna Tribbett reviewed park capital improvement priorities, including:
 - A new pavilion. Pres. Tribbett has contacted NW Building Trades to inquire if they would be interested in completing this project.
 - Development of a walking trail to connect areas throughout the park. New bathrooms and bleachers for the soccer field. Total project estimated at 100,000 to 400,000. Park board is looking into grants and additional funding opportunities for future park improvements.
 - Expansion/Addition of gravel parking areas near park facilities.
 - Construction of additional picnic tables through North White Building Trades.
 - Discussed the need to complete the required five-year DNR Park Master Plan to be eligible for grants.

Clerk Siphkema asked the Park Board to submit cost estimates for proposed 2027 projects to assist with budget planning.
6. **Town Hall Operations, Clerk Siphkema....**
 - Replacement of the current copier due to the upcoming expiration of the lease and manufacturer support.
 - Increase General-Gasoline from \$1,000 to \$3,500 to split fuel costs across departments.
7. **Council Members.....** President Hickman asked the Clerk-Treasurer to research funding options for new Fire Department equipment before the next meeting, and the Council requested a detailed maintenance report for the current police fleet.

Being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the workshop. Meeting adjourned.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: _____

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: _____

COUNCIL MEMBER: _____

COUNCIL MEMBER: _____

COUNCIL MEMBER: _____

ATTEST: _____

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Monon Town Council meeting. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at for as long as this media is supported.

Official signed minutes may be requested at the Clerk's Office or viewed at <https://townofmonon.com/2025-minutes>