

A special meeting of the Kirklin Town Council was held on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Kirklin Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to hold the first public hearing regarding the town council's intention to apply to the Indiana Office of Community Rural Affairs for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning program.

Town Council Members in attendance: Melinda Jobe, Jerry Faucett, and Craig Hudzinski. Brent Stetler and Walt Minnick were absent.

Also present: Billy Walker, Steve Jones, Tim Carson, and Nick Poole.

The meeting was opened at 7:00pm by Melinda Jobe.

PUBLIC HEARING – Tim Carson of the North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council presented information on a proposed stormwater planning grant application for the Town of Kirklin. He explained that the organization provides grant writing services at no cost to municipal and nonprofit entities across six counties and is assisting the Town with an application to fund a comprehensive engineering study of the community's stormwater system to evaluate flooding, drainage issues, and potential long-term improvements. The grant is administered by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, with Kirklin serving as the lead applicant. Eligibility is based on benefiting low- to moderate-income residents, and a recent income survey determined that 53.85% of the Town's residents qualify, exceeding the required 51% threshold. The Town is requesting \$27,000 of the program's \$30,000 maximum award, with a required local match of \$5,000 to be funded through the stormwater utility operating budget. The proposed planning activities include evaluating existing stormwater infrastructure, identifying system needs, analyzing costs, and developing implementation and maintenance recommendations. Carson noted that no persons or businesses would be displaced as a result of the project, no written public comments had been received prior to the hearing, and the application deadline is July 10, 2026. He also requested any additional letters of support by July 8, with award announcements anticipated in August or September, and concluded by opening the floor for public questions and comments. A discussion ensued, including Jerry Faucett sharing personal experiences and historical context of flooding issues in town and Melinda Jobe noting that this is why we need this planning grant. The issue of the aging county drain tiles being involved were also discussed and the fact that county farmers hook into them. Billy Walker stated that tiles should be no smaller than 12 inches, depending on what it's serving, but he's seen tiles much too small. He also mentioned that there had been a sinkhole on 421 and, instead of allowing anybody to repair it, INDOT came in and dumped #53 gravel in it and covered it back up. He said that's what has caused the headache in that area (in front of Excel Tool & Die) as it didn't flood before that. The meeting concluded with a final call for any additional questions or comments from Tim Carson. Seeing none, the public hearing was closed at 7:45pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Melinda Jobe, Council President

A livestream recording of council meetings, including their agenda and minutes, can be accessed at the following address for at least 90 days following the date of each meeting, per IC 5-14-1.5-2.9:

www.youtube.com/@kirklinindiana