

**TOWN of SURGOINSVILLE
BOARD of MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**

**BMA Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 11th, 2026, @ 6:00 pm**

The BMA session of the Surgoinsville Board of Mayor and Aldermen was held May 11th, 2026, at 6:00p.m. in the Surgoinsville City Hall after public notice was published on *Town of Surgoinsville – City Hall* Facebook Page and posted at City Hall, Surgoinsville Utility District, Post Office, & Surgoinsville Public Library on Friday, May 8th, 2026.

INVOCATION

Mayor Graham did the invocation. Alderman Hoss to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

Present

Mayor Graham
Vice Mayor Collier

Alderman Sandidge
Alderman Bishop
Alderman Hoss

Absent

Alderman Mierek

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTES

- April 13th, 2026 - BMA Meeting Minutes & Public Hearing Minutes: A motion was made by Alderman Bishop to approve as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collier. The voting was unanimous in favor to approve the minutes as written.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Police Chief Hammonds read the April 2026 Police Report. Megan Gentry, Recorder, read the Fire Department Report for April 2026. Maintenance Report and Sewer Report for April 2026 were provided for review. The April 2026 *Daily Vehicle Inspection Checklist* for each vehicle, April Work Orders, April Animal Control Log were emailed to each Board Member for review. A motion was made by Alderman Bishop to approve the April reports as written. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collier. The voting was unanimous.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

- Megan Gentry, City Recorder, provided a financial summary for all funds in April 2026

VISITORS

- Tim Carwile, John Cate with *The Rogersville Review*, Kay Walker-Cate, Josh Sawyer, Hannah Sawyer

OLD BUSINESS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- Consider accepting FY2025 Audit and note a discrepancy with the Actual and Budgeted Sewer Maintenance and Preservation Costs on page 34. Benjamin Johnson with Comptroller of the Treasury (TBOUR) was informed with details of the inaccuracy on 04/20/2026. A motion was made by Alderman Bishop. The motion was seconded by Alderman Sandidge. A roll call vote was obtained and was unanimous in favor of approving.
- Acknowledged that we were notified April 14th that we were not selected to move to the application phase of the Healthy Built Environments grant
- Acknowledged that Megan Gentry, Recorder, contacted LGC and confirmed that our website meets the federal requirements for website and digital accessibility under the American with Disabilities Act
- Consideration of approval of the Proposed Agreement concerning the Elementary and Middle School, ratifying and confirming all prior acts consistent with achieving it, the attorney's signature, and agreeing to be bound by its terms. A motion was made by Alderman Hoss. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collier. Discussion was had. Alderman Sandidge called for question. A roll call vote was obtained and was unanimous in favor of approving.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

- Hannah Sawyer spoke to the Board. Stated that she lives on Main Street and expressed concerns with the funding requested by Hawkins County 911. Sawyer asked where the Board stands as a whole and if anyone was representing the Town in these conversations. Vice Mayor Collier stated that he had spoken with Town Administrator at Mount Carmel as well as several Hawkins County Commissioners. Collier stated that he was speaking for himself and not for the entire Board. Collier explained that every penny of property taxes brought approximately \$3,300 based on FY2026 Budget and that to budget the requested funding, a tax increase of 15 to 16 cents would be required and he felt this was unfair to citizens of Surgoinsville. Collier stated taxation without representation. Collier added that there was a meeting tomorrow at 10am with the towns, Hawkins County, and Hawkins County 911 to further discuss. If this matter is not resolved during the meeting on 05/12/2026, Surgoinsville would need to come up with a plan and contact Legal to further negotiate. Mayor Graham stated that he agreed with everything Vice Mayor Collier said.

COUNCIL REQUESTS

OTHER BUSINESS

- Attorney Joe May informed the Board that the zoning issue at a residential area was resolved today.

ADJOURNMENT

The BMA Meeting was dismissed at 6:23 pm.


Merrell Graham, Mayor

ATTEST:


Megan Gentry, Recorder