LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
September 28, 2026

The Work Session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, September 28, 2026, at 5:30 P.M. Members present were Todd Angerman, Mike Gruszka, John Alessia, Shane Tucker, and Phil Kuiper. Staff present were Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Police Chief Jim Woestamn, Fire Chief Chris Gamblin, and GIS Director Greg White. Town Attorney David was present.

Town Manager Criag Hendrix inquired if the RDC would consider allowing another $10,000.00 façade grant this year. This will be an agenda item. Discussion arose about tuition reimbursement and Town Manager Hendrix will provide a memo. Opioid restricted funds were discussed and are being reviewed. The Town will receive an INDOT contract for the electric vehicle purchase. The vehicle deposit and charger are in process. Delivery is expected in October/November. Todd Angerman should watch his email for the INDOT contract. Code Enforcement – staff met with a candidate today. This will be a part-time officer and will require a salary ordinance amendment. The police department training facility shooting range bids need to be formally rejected. This will be added to the agenda. The West Side sewer extension will begin work at the railroad crossing on October 12th. Community Crossing Grant application are due Wednesday, Town Council president Angerman will need to sign the application letter. Trick or Treat hours will be from 4 pm to 7 pm on Halloween. It was requested that the hours for Nassau Park be 8 am to dusk. This will allow for consistency on opening. All other parks will remain dawn to dusk. October 17th will be Oktoberfest at Nassau Park; discussion occurred on events and the parking lot. Cyndi Hughes requested approval to pay Yoder's Cornhole Boards up front in the amount of $800 for two sets of board for events. The labor is being donated.

Mike Gruszka discussed Pizza at the Point and the two handicap parking spots in front of the building along Liberty Street. Discussion occurred concerning making this area a two-hour parking zone. Chief Woestman stated that they have been awarded a Department of Justice (DOJ) grant in the amount of $244,000.00 for portable radios.

Chief Gamblin discussed the fire contract and the Townships. Township Trustees Alice Dahl, Heidi Laub and Rosie Morrow were in attendance. Discussion occurred on allowing the 2026 rate that the townships currently have with the Lowell Volunteer Fire department to be the rates for 2027 as consolidation moves forward. Discussion occurred on the five-year plan from July 2024 to present. SEA-1 put some kinks in the financing of the plan. Consolidation of the fire department would allow for some cost savings. Councilman Gruszka noted that Corby (Krohn & Associates and Clerk-Treasurer Jill Murr have been researching and working on this. Chief Gamblin provided information on staffing and funding. There are some redundancies such as insurance that can be combined. Councilman Kuiper discussed history of full-time firefighters. Mike Gruszka inquired of David Westland on the agreement. It was noted that these will be intergovernmental agreements at the cost of 2026. The staff will become Town part-time staff. Heidi Laub, West Creek Township Trustee, is good with contracting and costing. Dan Blakenship and Chief Gamblin discussed pension and the unit, the fire department and where it needs to go. The department will not be a full career department until 51% of the people are full-time. Hiedi Laub stated that uniforms and life saving equipment could still be provided at the township's discretion. There is a uniform allowance in the proposed budget and through the current agreements. All would be maintained under the Town. Goal of consolidation was to use the excess tax levy, but that has been taken away. John Alessia questioned what happens if the tax

rate doesn't support what the townships are willing to pay. Alice Dahl, Cedar Creek Township trustee, stated that a fire district is going to be needed. The ambulance is struggling. A tax will need to be looked at for public safety. The town will work on creating a fire department and establishing the agreements needed.

The work session adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Todd Angerman, President

Attest:

Jill Murr, Clerk-Treasurer