



January 24, 2024 Town Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Larry and Alice Randolph, Dana Rutter, Vernon Miller, Avery Ferguson, Matt King, Jake Oberlin, Jim Winkler, Rick Pharis, Ray Rodriguez, Timothy and Jennifer Wright, Warren Van Ness, and Moe Yoder.

MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 4:58pm.

MacKenzie asked for any corrections or changes for the January 10, 2024 meeting minutes. Larry and Dana both said no. Larry made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 10, 2024. Dana seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to adopt the meeting minutes from January 10, 2024.

New Business: Rick explained the Community Cross Roads Match Grant for the first estimate, Maple Street was estimated with concrete. It has since been corrected and changed to asphalt and the price dropped significantly. Dean needs to be authorized to sign the letter and approve the funding source. MacKenzie told the council, the town portion of \$36,450.39 will be all paid out of the EDIT fund. The roads included in this match grant are Maple Street from Larimer Drive to Cripe Drive, Maple Street from Cripe Drive to Jefferson Street, Jackson Street from Lincoln Street to South Terminus, and Cook Road and Railroad Street intersection. Dana made a motion to approve the application submission for the Community Cross Roads Match Grant. Larry seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to move forward with the Community Cross Roads Match Grant.

Water: Avery began asking how the council would like to proceed with Myra Hernandez's billing. Avery told Dana that Larry went with him to the resident's home to check on the meter and pipes to make sure there was nothing leaking. Avery said, this house's plumbing was impressive. Avery said, he couldn't determine whether there really was a leak or not. The meter seemed to be working fine. Avery told the council; meters were just read on the 22nd and her February bill seemed to be normal. At the last meeting, the council instructed MacKenzie to waive the penalty fees for the January billing cycle. Larry and Dana also agreed for this time only to remove the sewer portion for her December bill. The total sewer portion to be removed is \$258.75. MacKenzie said she would call Myra in the morning to let her know about the adjustment on her utility bill.

Avery told the council the high-pressure pump was installed and is working well.

Wastewater: Avery said he is still working on exchanging the multi-lab issue.

The quote in front of you is what it'll cost to get the clarifier fixed. The drop in the temperature caused a lot of issues. Avery went on to say, I'd rather get this all looked at and all of these issues resolved because this is something our utility definitely needs. It's also been causing

inflated numbers. Larry made a motion to go with the Mason Engineering & Construction proposal of \$9,880. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to go with the Mason Engineering & Construction proposal. ARPA Fund will be able to support the expenditure.

Avery said he was contacted by someone who used to do occasional dumping in the reed system. The gentleman is Tanner Miller, it's Dean and Tina's nephew. He pumps out porta johns and other systems. About a year and a half ago there was an issue with him dumping, some numbers rose and we had to put an end to it. I have talked with Tanner and he is wanting to dump again in our facility. Dana asked, does he pay? Avery replied, the contact that Ben had with him is 5 cents a gallon and he's okay with paying that same price. This should not kill off the reeds. Once we lose the reeds, we can't get them back by state law. It's water, a little bit of sand, and vegetable oil. Grease can't run through their system; he was doing some of this in Topeka. Dana asked Avery, you'll be there with him when he is doing this, right? Avery responded, yes.

Community Development: MacKenzie invited everyone to the Action Agenda Roll out on February 12th from 4:00pm-6:00pm at the town hall. Light refreshments will be provided. This is the action agenda that was created alongside Vibrant Communities. Please come and give your input/feedback on the action plan.

Maintenance: Matt gave an inventory sheet to the council. The list contains items that are over the \$5,000 threshold. Dana and Larry looked over the sheet. MacKenzie said she will compare it with what our insurance has listed.

Marshal: Ray explained to the council that the Millersburg Police Department is looking into changing its email domain. Right now, the MPD has yahoo and it isn't as secure. It was suggested to transition to Google. Techknowledgy is going to get with us to help us make this change along with looking at our printer. We don't know a cost for these expenses yet.

Park: Vernon gave the council and MacKenzie a copy of a sketch drawing. Vernon went on to explain that he met with the Farmer's Day Committee and they expressed concerns about parking. Since the football field is normally taken up during the event and the buggy parking is cramped, I came up with a solution. Last November I found that there is two acres of land that is potentially available to us. This would open up more parking. Right now, we have three large events and are in need of more parking spaces. Farmer's Day was really excited about this. I don't have a price yet and nothing is set in stone. I just wanted to get you guys thinking about this. There's a neighbor that would butt up to the property and he has already agreed to mow it and keep it pasteurized for us. Avery said before anything gets set in stone, he would like to go out that way and check for utilities.

Clerk Treasurer: MacKenzie gave the council bank reconciliations for October and November of 2023. Suzy Bass has signed off on all of them and we are balanced.

I would like you guys to approve an additional \$2,142.35 cyber security insurance to add to our policy. There's a lot of threat towards municipalities and hackers getting into their system and locking employees out of everything. With this insurance policy, they would continue to pay our employees their set wages and they would also give us our monthly revenue so we could try and keep going until software is released back to us. Dana motioned to approve the additional cyber security insurance. Larry seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to add cyber security insurance to the policy.

Eric Ivory from Borden Wasteaway will be here on February 28th to negotiate rates for trash pick-up.

Junior Achievements (JA) starts in a couple of weeks. It's a 5-week session and my typical time slot will be every Friday from 8:15am-9:30am. Just as a notice, my office will be closed during some of the morning.

MacKenzie asked Larry and Dana about the next council meeting. Are we canceling the council meeting for February 14th? Dana and Larry suggested moving the **council meeting to Tuesday February 13th at 5:00pm.** All were in favor and that will be the next council meeting.

New Business: Timothy and Jennifer Wright were here to give their statement about the encounter that took place on January 12th, 2024. The Wright's live at 211 Blessing Street. Timothy started by saying, about a week and a half ago, some mailboxes on Blessing Street got taken out by a Town of Millersburg snow plow. We made an attempt to contact the driver and had an altercation. He (the driver) and the passenger were cursing at my mother. That following Wednesday, I wasn't home. There was a vehicle, I won't speculate who owned it and who came at night, sat in front of my house and hit the horn and revved the engine of their truck. Small or large disagreement, I did want to bring that to light, because it seemed like whoever it was wanted to harass us. Larry asked, the mailbox got repaired and it was fine? Timothy replied yes. It was then asked what kind of vehicle was it? The Wright's responded it was a white or lighter color Dodge truck. Jennifer said, I did some Facebook searching and it looked like the same truck Austin King has.

That snowy night, I was out walking the dog and a plow came down the street at a high speed, which I get you have to go fast, but it was excessive. He took out multiple mailboxes. Jennifer said she flagged him down. I said hi, and will you fix the mailbox? Austin said, what mailboxes, I didn't do that. Jennifer said really? Austin got lippy with Jennifer about it. Jennifer made the

comment, that's the way you represent the town? I knew it was town associated because it had Millersburg on it. Then, the female in the car said f*ck you to me and called me and f*cking b*tch and you don't know what you're talking about! Two other residents heard all of the commotion and came out. One resident shouted, I just got all of that on ring camera, I hope you know. They drove away and we continued our walk down Blessing and Larimer Street. I have Matt's phone number, I won't get into that, but I called him. He didn't answer. I saw Matt in the larger snow plow and Tim and I went over towards him and started telling him what happened. We were never yelling, but talking louder than normal because the truck itself is so loud and it's hard to hear. Before we could say anymore, Matt said you better calm down and stop your attitude right now. Then, Matt started yelling at my son (Tim) and telling him to stop. Tim ended up walking away and I (Jennifer) said to Matt, what are we going to do about this? This escalated Matt and Matt said, I don't know who's driving that plow truck and who the passenger is. I thought, how do we handle this? Then I said, fine I'll go to the Town Hall and they'll get me in touch with who I need to resolve this matter. Matt said, that's fine go to the town building and talk to whoever you want, I'm the one in charge and there's no one above me. Then, a couple of days later I saw Austin out repairing the mailbox. He saw that I was watching him and then goes, see didn't take much, did it?

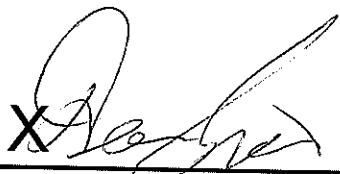
Neighbors would be more than willing to show us their ring cameras. The neighbors that witnessed this interaction agreed that this whole thing was just uncalled for. No one should be talked to that way. Dana asked, were all the mailboxes replaced? Jennifer said yes but it got to be past the issue of it being broken. Matt spoke up and said it's a break away mailbox, it's designed to slide back on. MacKenzie said, I don't think that's the point, Matt. This is something we will discuss with Dean. Something will be done, because we shouldn't be acting in a manner like this.

Warren Van Ness was in attendance. Larry asked, what's on your mind? Warren replied, nothing really. I've never been to a council meeting and wanted to check it out.

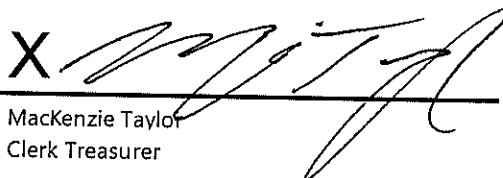
Moe Yoder was here to discuss pool fillings. Moe started by telling the council he wanted to see if they were interested in doing this again. In the past, it was an issue and we weren't allowed to do it for the residents and township. Moe said, it's kind of a community service thing. Dana asked about the procedure for pool fillings. Moe said, the way we used to do it we would charge them and you guys pay 20.00 a tanker and then give it to the customer. I believe we are up to 30.00 a tanker now. Avery was asked if this seems like a loss or cost more? Avery said, I'm fine with the fee and when you do it as long as we track the gallons, it's okay. Moe then reinstated with the fee, Fire Department keeps 10.00 and the town would get 20.00. Someone said Middlebury does the same thing with their pool fillings but they charge 75.00. The council suggested raising this to 50.00. Larry and Dana accepted a high charge of 50.00, payments can either be given to Avery or MacKenzie and it needs to be paid with a check, no cash will be accepted.

Larry made a motion to pay bills. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to pay bills.

Larry made a motion to adjourn. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to adjourn.

X 

Dean Smith
Council President

X 

MacKenzie Taylor
Clerk Treasurer