



August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Town Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Larry Randolph, Dean Smith, MacKenzie Taylor, John Nelson, Addie Miller, Robert Roa, John Veenstra, Avery Ferguson, and Vernon Miller.

The public hearing was called to order at 5:00pm for the 2025 budget. MacKenzie read aloud the budget for each fund. Casino/Riverboat \$11,010, General Fund \$800,788, Local Road & Street \$71,800, MVH \$138,000, Park & Recreation \$105,153, CCI \$4,500, CCD \$42,000, EDIT \$357,551, Public Safety LIT \$131,183, American Rescue Plan \$18,703, and Bickle Donation Fund \$38,000. The total budget will be \$1,718,688.00. MacKenzie asked if there were any questions? Robert asked about Public Safety what all that includes? MacKenzie said fifty percent of your salaries will come out of there and the other will be for whatever you are needing equipment wise. No more questions or comments were made. Dean closed the public hearing and announced the adoption date for September 11, 2024.

Dean called the regular town council meeting to order.

Dean made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 14, 2024. Larry seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Water:** There was a power outage in Millersburg.

Avery said he had a discussion with Stan Chupp, the owner of Ultimate Edge. He is making a lot of necessary and great improvements. He wants to know if the town would be willing to help pay for some of the cost of improvements he'll be doing in his lot. The Council asked MacKenzie if there's anything they can do. MacKenzie said, we could start a façade program, we budget \$10,000 a year and we can give the local business a couple thousand dollars towards their project. MacKenzie also suggested maybe we could include them in the next round of CCMG? Avery replied, he wasn't sure if other streets need more attention. The council told MacKenzie to look over the budget and see if it's something feasible to reinstate in January.

**Wastewater:** Avery said he brought this up a few meetings ago. The stainless-steel chains have been incorporated. Avery is working on a contract for the generators. Overall, things have been running smooth. Avery is still working through the apprenticeship program.

**Community Development:** MacKenzie present the council with an RFP contract to work with the Pumpkin Patch for the playground installation. Dean signed the RFP contract.

MacKenzie then presented them with a memorandum. The memorandum describes the time line and details of how the town came about working with Pumpkin Patch for the playground. Larry Randolph read over the memorandum. Larry, Dean, and MacKenzie both acknowledged and signed the memorandum to keep with their paperwork in regard to the park projects.

MacKenzie informed the council she and Addie met with Jeff Wingstorm and Brittany Short in regard to the bike trail system. The meeting was very informative and exciting. MacKenzie explained, Jeff Wingstorm has Millersburg included in the plans for the Hawpatch trail. Right now, they are working through a Purchase Order Agreement with Norfolk. MacKenzie said she wrote a letter of interest to the LaGrange County Community Foundation in support of the trail system. It would be very big for the town to get the land and designate that as a trail head. Robert made mention about an eminent domain. Larry said do we want to do our neighbor that way? MacKenzie said maybe it could be useful as a negotiation though.

MacKenzie showed the council the nice flyers Addie created for the grand opening of Cook Station Park.

**Marshal:** Robert explained that there have been a couple of complaints about golf carts riding on the trail at Cook Station Park. Robert conversed with Vernon about putting a sign up near the entrance that will say, no motorized vehicles. Vernon said he is fine with that. Robert said he has witnessed someone doing burn outs at Cook Station Park on an ATV. We need to look at our contract agreement for the park or establish an ordinance if it doesn't state anything about motorized vehicles in it so we can enforce it and fine people who break the rules.

Robert said he has hunted down some chickens. A couple more people have been coming into register them like they should.

Ray is on vacation the rest of this week. Then, Robert will be on vacation for a couple of weeks.

Robert told the council him and Ray have been involved with the school since it's back in session.

**Park:** Vernon said things are good. He's ready to start tearing out the playground equipment. September 11 is the official tear down date. Vernon said he's had a nice break since Farmer's Day. Dean asked if the electric worked well for the events. Vernon replied, yes it worked great. Larry said, that and the water was ideal.

Avery said he was approached by Tory Vanderway about putting in a secure structure with restrooms and a concession stand. This would replace the trailer porta johns and existing concession stand. Avery said he would look into this further, the only worry is this would be partially on a well head and he's unsure about where certain utilities lay out in the field. He said he will review maps and let Tory know if this is possible to do. This is something that would be a next year project, possibly. Tory has access to equipment and would be able to do a decent portion of the project.

**Clerk Treasurer:** MacKenzie presented the amended salary ordinance to Dean and Larry. The salary ordinance now has two new maintenance assistants. Corey Oberlin, full-time and Mike Dull, part-time. Dean made a motion to approve the amended salary ordinance to include the pay for Corey and Mike. Larry seconded the motion, upon voice vote the amended salary ordinance was unanimously approved. MacKenzie asked about comp time approval sheets. Dean and Larry wanted to table this item until the next meeting.

MacKenzie told the council July bank reconciliation is complete and signed off by Suzy Bass. Larry and Dean both signed the sign off sheet for the completion of the July bank reconciliation.

**New Business:** Larry started by saying there's a small garage west to the alley that Ultimate Edge owns. Larry stated, that place needs to be cleaned up. Larry said when he was with Matt last, they looked at that place. Matt told Larry he thinks he knows who owns it. Larry said, it's just an eye sore back there, so many trucks that are just junk. Dean said find out who owns it and we'll table this until the next meeting and send them a letter.

Avery wanted to go back to the old policy of comp time. In the past, full-time employees that were eligible for comp time. There is a limit of 80 hours that can be gained and the 80 hours could roll over from year to year. Everything after the 80 hours would be a use it or lose it. Dean asked MacKenzie about this. MacKenzie said that's fine but can you please look over these PTO reports and help encourage employees to take time off if their comp time is getting too high. Dean and Larry said that would be fine. Dean made a motion to approve the comp time policy. Larry seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the comp time policy was approved.

Larry said the ditch at Mike Kimberlin's was standing full of water. The dig out did not help. Brian Yoder's place was flooded again too. SR-13 and Washington Street is a mess drain wise. Maintenance Department needs to properly clean those drains out. The storm debris, limbs, and brush should not be pitched up into people's yards either. Dean asked about getting a jetter,

or does the town contact Roto Rooter to clean it out? Avery said he is not sure if Matt has someone, he calls for that type of service or not.

Larry asked, speaking of who's in charge of the hitching rack out here? MacKenzie said, well Avery used to do it. Avery said, yes, he was the pooper scooper. Larry said I knew Avery did it but maintenance stopped doing it as soon as Avery left. Larry said, it's disgusting there is so much manure and grass growing through the cracks, they need to be sprayed. Vernon volunteered to take care of it. Larry said, you can do it this one time then it's going to fall on the maintenance department, like it should. There's no reason this shouldn't be getting done.

**Old Business:** MacKenzie said she spoke with the town attorney about Petra's home on Oak Street. The attorney confirmed it was purchased in a tax sales back in 2021 or 2022 to Wingate Properties LLC. Wingate is currently being sued by other municipalities for these properties they purchase and just leave sitting in poor conditions. The attorney tried to reach out to County to see where we were in the process of things. He said he would get back with us as soon as he hears back.

Larry said, keep an eye out on the habitat house, it's starting to get junky again.

Avery said the water stone/slab should be out here in a couple of weeks.

CPR class is still in the making.

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

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

