



Town Council Meeting Minutes August 9th, 2023

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Austin Turner, Dean Smith, Jim Winkler, Avery Ferguson, Jessica Frye, Ray Rodriguez, Vernon Miller, Haley Hurst, Brian Yoder and father, Alexis Holthues and two guests.

Dean made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 12th, 2023. Austin Turner seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Water: Avery and Jessica met with Rhonda a while back from WHT mapping. This is an extravagant mapping software technology. When Rhonda had an initial meeting with Jessica and Avery, she compiled all of the maps the town has. All mapping data was collected. With this mapping service the town can have a designated user and all employees will have access to it. Within the layer maps, the town can put in all town properties, easements, property boundaries, sewer lines/mains, curb stops, shuts offs, water lines, electrical poles, hydrants, and many more other features. Not only would this be beneficial to utilities, it will also be helpful to the street department, police, and clerk treasurer's office. The town could acquire road measurements and potentially apply for their own CCMG with the assistance of TRIAD to try and cut down on engineering fees. The cost for the program and licensing is \$12,475.00. Dean asked if the town was able to afford this and how would we pay for it? MacKenzie said, she would split these four ways, general fund, MVH, water, and wastewater. It's very reasonable. Dean made a motion to accept the mapping system and licensing fee. Jim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved.

Avery mentioned, he thought he would do hydrant flushing on the 28th or 29th of August. This isn't set in stone and he knows he needs to give ample time to alert residents a week in advance before doing this.

Avery is having a hard time getting meter horns. They are out of stock for the size he is needing. He may not be able to get any for 3-4 months.

A homeowner on 115 Elm Street has been having an ongoing leak/plumbing issue. Alexis Holthues is the homeowner of the property and was here to discuss this issue with the council. Alexis started by saying, she was not aware that this issue was going on. She is unsatisfied that it has taken this long to get fixed. She was told she needed and new meter by Ben, but it was never installed or replaced. She told the council; her crawlspace has been flooded for at least three months. Avery told the council when this situation first arose that he couldn't determine whether the leak was before or after the meter. Alexis said, someone from the town did come out and looked at it (past utility superintendent) but never mentioned it was leaking. Jessica

said, I know I put in a work order for that meter, I would have to go back through our paperwork to see exactly when this was. Someone spoke up on Alexis's behalf. She is simply trying to explain, the crawl space was full of water for months, someone from the utility department investigated this, then neglected to tell her that her crawlspace is full of water. For utility billing, we don't know how large or small this bill will be. The meter seems to have picked up on some reads through the month, then other months this account was estimated. (Probably due to water damage at or on the meter) The reason why Ben couldn't change the meter is because there was standing water and until a plumber came out to fix the standing water, he was unable to get decent access to the meter to change it. A week ago, a plumber got ahold of Avery and to find the curb stop. Jim asked Alexis what her water bill was? Alexis said she doesn't know. We won't know until next month. I'm just not happy with how this was handled. Jim and Dean both apologized. Jim asked her if she had any mold? She had no knowledge yet; the crawlspace is not dry yet. Jim said, this isn't really a town issue in regards to the leak/plumbing matters. It was asked again, why didn't the past utilities superintendent inform her that she had a leak because he was out there for the water meter. Jessica said, when he did come back to tell us what was going on he was having a hard time getting ahold of you. Jessica stated she tried calling Alexis too. Jessica asked, is your phone number up to date. Alexis said, she's had the same phone number for 15 years. Avery said his repairs were done; a new meter was installed without the meter horn. Once he gets that, he'll go back and put that in. Avery said, the crawlspace was still damp but seems to be drying out. Jim said, that'll just take some time. Haley asked how long Alexis has been living in the home? Alexis replied, 5 years. Alexis said, if I have anymore damages from that are you going to help cover any of the cost? Dean said, that's the difficult thing we don't know who's side it was on. Alexis said, there's a lot of what ifs and if there's mold in there and I can't stay in my house for a while... Jim said, if you're asking if the town will put you up some place, we aren't. Alexis asked, if I have a big bill for mold or something we'll have to cross that bridge once it gets dried out completely. Jim said, cases of these vary and you may not be affected by this at all. Alexis asked, then for my water bill, most likely, it shouldn't affect it? Jessica said, we will have to wait and see depending on your meter if it back logs and how disabled it actually was. Jim said, we will take a look at the water bill when it's ready and see if an adjustment should be made.

Jim said, I have something for water. I got a text from Toni Miller today saying Dawn is trying to get ahold of MacKenzie. I explained the office is closed on Wednesday. It was in regards to a utility customer. MacKenzie said she got the e-mail from Toni Miller earlier today and responded that would be fine. We'll take the customer off of the shut off.

Wastewater: There is an issue with the chlorine pipe that feeds the vinal out at wastewater... We tried to repair it inhouse and we accidentally cut some wires while digging. Stouder Services came out and repaired this. It took them most of the day Monday and all-day Tuesday. Middlebury Electric will have their part fixed soon.

We had a quality assurance test, still waiting on the results.

Avery said he's been working on getting the dr3900 up and running. I would like to update the testing material and systems so that it will save on testing time for Tina.

I would like permission to purchase large industrial scales. I need them to measure the chlorine tanks. I bought a lot of bathroom scales and they aren't cutting it and I've already broke some of those. I need two large scales and they are \$1500 apiece. Dean asked about a warranty. Avery said he would look into it. Dean asked if we could afford this. MacKenzie said since it's a utility improvement we can use ARPA funds and there is money still in that account. Dean made a motion to approve the scales purchase. Austin Turner seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to purchase the scales.

Avery said I took this week off evening wise... I need to train some more with Tina. As you can see my comp time is very high. I am taking off this Friday. Jim said, we will see what we can do for compensation.

Community Development: MacKenzie told the council she is meeting with Todd from Indiana land marks to discuss a historic walk/trail in Millersburg.

Maintenance: I guess we should bring it up now, Austin's raise. MacKenzie said, I put it through the 7-28th-2023 payroll as I was told and given permission by Dean and Austin. It was a .69 cent raise per hour, bi-weekly adding up to \$54.50 and totaling \$109.00 a month like MacKenzie was instructed. Jim said, let me tell you what I heard... I got a call from Matt King saying you (Dean) promised a \$3.00 per hour raise for Austin. Dean said, no that's not what was promised, I didn't promise anything. I said I'd love to be able to do that but I can't promise anything. I don't know what or where Matt heard that. MacKenzie asked the council, are you seriously thinking about giving another raise on top of what he was given? Before anyone could speak MacKenzie said, I understand they think all of this money has been freed up because Avery took over utilities. Jim agreed, that's what they do believe. MacKenzie said, it's not like that. I moved Austin more into the general fund at 70% and cut him down in the park to only 10% because he works on equipment out there. I moved Vernon 100% into the park fund. If you give Austin another raise, and I brought this up in my e-mail with Dean. This is cutting into Vernon's hours, and you're telling me that I need to tell Vernon we need to cap his hours so Austin can get a higher salary, when Vernon works so hard and maintains our parks so well! No, I'm not doing it, MacKenzie said, I can't do another raise for him. The budget is set and I'm already going to have to do a transfer of funds in park. The council said OK.

Marshal: Ray said, out of the two quotes I got another one for the Durango and this one was the lowest. It's for \$39,995. The reason the other quote was so high is because it was for a v-8, we only need a v-6.

Vernon and I met with Jay from Bontrager Security to look at installing a camera system out at the park. There is an issue with the electricity near the concession stand where the modem is, which can be fixed. I also asked for cameras coming in at the park on both roads. I also asked for quotes to get cameras at the intersections of Jefferson & Elm, Jefferson & Washington, and Jefferson & Main.

No more graffiti or broken mirrors have taken place in the park.

Ray said, we had been dealing with those dogs next door and they're all finally gone. MacKenzie and Jessica heard the dogs fighting one day last week. The owner of the dogs came outside and MacKenzie and Jessica reported they saw him kicking, stomping, and whipping them with a leash. None of the dogs had been immunized and were collected by the shelter.

Chaplain John Veenstra was in the hospital for about three weeks. He was having really bad headaches. One day he went to the doctor then they transferred him to the hospital. He had an abscess in his brain and it burst. He's lucky to be alive. Only 7/10 people normally survive something like that. He's home now and is recovering/in good spirits.

Park: Vernon said, on diamond one there's been an ongoing issue with the scoreboard not working. Someone would have to go up in the concession stand to complete the scoring. I got a quote from Middlebury Electric to get this issue resolved. They would get a button/remote synced up with the scoreboard so no one will have to go up in the concession stands anymore. The quote is shy of \$1900. Dean agreed to the quote, Jim said no, and Austin abstained due to conflict of interest. Jim said, who's responsible when someone loses the remote? Then, we'll have to get another one. Vernon said he would have a sign out sheet and keep it in the utility room. MacKenzie broke the tie and agreed to the quote. MacKenzie said, it's important we maintain and improve what we have. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to get a remote to pair with the scoreboard.

Vernon requested getting two trucks of limestone to help fill in the walking path. It's \$600 per load. This will get done before Farmer's Day. Dean made a motion to approve the two trucks of limestone. Jim Winkler seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved.

Clerk Treasurer: MacKenzie gave the council 3 old outstanding checks to sign off on. They've been receipted back into the appropriate line items.

MacKenzie gave the council the retroactive amended salary ordinance for Austin King. Dean made a motion to approve the amended salary ordinance. Austin Turner seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the retroactive salary ordinance was unanimously approved.

MacKenzie gave the council May and June Bank Reconciliations to be signed off on. Suzy Bass (internal control) has looked over MacKenzie's worked and approved they are true and correct.

Just to put a bug in your ear. I got an e-mail last night from Amber Gingerich. She is very concerned, as she should be. The school is having the children that reside in Timber Valley walk out to CR 42 to be picked up by the bus. Jim asked, why? MacKenzie said she doesn't know why they aren't going back into the subdivision any long. Jim said, they could easily all meet in the first cul-de-sac on the left to pick up the children safely. MacKenzie said she doesn't know what will pan out but it was asked, an I told Amber this more of a school board issue... Is there any way we can help put up signage if they don't change the route? Haley mentioned there was a school board meeting on Monday. The council said, let's see what happens with the school board meeting and then we will see what we can do.

New Business: Brian asked, is anything going to get done by the car wash and my area? We are still experiencing massive amounts of pooling water. Ben was out there in the spring time and looked around but didn't do anything. He just walked away. The inlet by the bank is clearly not working. Choice tax was also built up high and we're so down low, we catch it all. Jim said, it was County that approved all of the plans when those businesses were put in. Brian showed pictures of the flooding in his backyard. It was asked by Brian; can't those drains get cleaned out? Avery suggested, what about getting a vac truck to clean it out. If this doesn't get cleaned out or taken care of is Choice Tax responsible? Jim said, let's see if we can look at the drains. Avery, pass this onto Matt. Let's try to get this cleaned up. Dean said, this may be a civil matter.

Jim said I want to start out by saying thank you to MacKenzie and Jessica and everyone that was involved in the Back to School Bash. You did a tremendous job and had a successful outcome. You guys did so well. I have heard feedback from a lot of people. I saw we handed out 137/180. Jessica confirmed it was a great turn out. We are going to start planning for next year and acquiring more donations ahead of time.

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

Dean made a motion to adjourn. Austin seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to adjourn.

