



August 14, 2024 Town Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Larry Randolph, Dean Smith, Dana Rutter, Matt King, Rick Pharis, Jeff Rowe, Addie Miller, Tina Smith, Ray Rodriguez, Avery Ferguson, and Vernon Miller.

Dean made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 10, 2024. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Water: Avery informed the council that the media test came back good. He'll be sure to keep an eye on it.

After talking with Harley and the Alliance representative Avery has started backwashing once a week. He said, it's not dependent on a time frame, it's more on when the hours are met and right now it's becoming a weekly thing.

Avery has had three service lines repaired since the initial two were repaired a couple of months ago. Two of them got repaired today. Petra's old house is one of them that has been worked on. Avery said we have made contact with County. MacKenzie informed the council County called her a couple of weeks ago to verify information. MacKenzie said the woman she spoke with from County will get the process started, but it will take a long time and advised the town to be patient.

Avery had a curb stop installed for Cutting Edge as they are putting up a new building where the old grain dryer used to be.

Avery will be attending a fall water and wastewater conference in Fort Wayne October 22nd-October 24th.

Water audit is done. During the audit it was discovered that there was some missing water not to say it's Ben's fault but Avery said he was unsure of where to look for documents/files. Avery said the water audit was free since he worked with Alliance to complete the audit.

Avery has been working on completing the lead line survey with Addie's help. There was a decent amount of resident's who completed the self-report. Those that have not, we'll have to start contacting them.

Wastewater: Avery said everything seems to be going well. Avery had another surprise inspection from IDEM. Avery feels as if IDEM is not giving him enough time in between inspections to get items fixed and corrected. The last inspection was only a month or two ago. Avery said he's working on correcting whatever they tell him to correct in a timely manner. Avery mentioned he is aware that Tina is part time and her hours may be increasing due to extra steps that have been implemented by IDEM. The council was understanding of the circumstances.

Community Development: MacKenzie told the council she sent out three letters of invitations to the Pumpkin Patch, Everything Outdoor and More, and Snider & Associates. Pumpkin Patch was the only invitation letter to answer and they responded on July 30th at 10:41am. Therefore, the Town will officially award the Pumpkin Patch Market with the award for Cook Station Park playground area.

MacKenzie told the council her and Addie will be meeting with Brittany Short and Jeff Wingstrom to discuss a way to get Millersburg connected to the popular bike trails in the area.

Maintenance: Matt told the council he only has one quote back from Picket Ridge Fencing to have a fence put around the maintenance department. The quote came in at \$35,000. The other quote will be from Mike's Fencing. Larry asked, how much would it cost to have your road paved back there? Matt said, it'd be a lot. He has discussed this in the past. Larry asked if he used limestone? Matt said we've used that and millings from different road projects. It's difficult because everything is dry and we haven't had rain for a while. The council gave Matt blessing to get a quote from Knepp to see how much it would cost.

Matt said National Striping hasn't gotten back with me yet. I've left many messages but I know he's busy with striping school lots and so on. Matt said he would try to get a hold of him tomorrow.

Matt said the gentleman that lives next to the old Tin Monkey will not be happy about the change to parallel parking. Matt said he asked him to move his vehicles off of the street so Matt could get the street sweeper through town. He moved them and thanked Matt for hiring a street sweeping crew.

Vernon and Avery have been lending Matt a hand since Austin is no longer here and he appreciates their help.

Matt said he got the trailer for Farmer's Day earlier today. Dean asked Matt about the barricades. Matt said, Vernon has two of his grandsons that will be volunteering and helping Matt complete the designated tasks for Farmer's Day. MacKenzie suggested since they are being such a huge help, maybe we can get them a gift card to the Pizza Depot? The council was okay to get Vernon's grandson each a gift card to the Pizza Depot.

Larry asked, has the locksmith gotten back with you, Matt? Matt replied I should have the keys next week.

Tornado siren key was distributed to the council members, MacKenzie, and the Police Officers.

Nipsco got the light fixed that was out near Donna Stump's home.

Marshal: Ray told the council about the issues he had been having with the cameras he originally wanted around different intersections in the Town. The cameras were ordered, then we discovered one problem after another. Nipsco wouldn't allow us to hang cameras on their utility poles, then there wasn't a strong internet signal to run the cameras. So, the idea was scrapped and they are charging us a restocking fee of \$2700. Larry asked, what if we just keep the cameras for when one of ours breaks? MacKenzie chimed in and said, I apologize I sent out a payment toward the end of July for this. The council was okay and understood. Avery said, you wouldn't want to do that because with the way technology is advancing, they'd be out of date before long.

Ray let the council know that the reserves will be coming in this weekend to work Farmer's Day. He also let them know that Larry and Walter both helped one day out at the Elkhart County Fair. For them working the fair that counted as hours worked for the Town.

Is there a big pot hole on Wastewater Drive? Larry asked Matt. Matt replied yes and it's already been fixed. The Town does not own that road. The owner of the roadway is either with Amity/Arrow. Matt said he thanked him for fixing that road.

Matt asked Ray if he would like the stop signs out at 40 and 13 and Lincoln and 13. Ray replied, yes.

Park: Vernon told the council this year he is further ahead with his work for Farmer's Day and it's going great. He's all done mowing. He mentioned his two grandsons would be helping him. Larry commended Vernon on his great job and hard work with all he does.

Dean asked Avery if they are having water ball again? Avery replied he knows they're doing it but he hasn't heard anything about it directly. Avery said as long as Moe informs me of the estimates of water, it'll work out.

Avery mentioned he's tried getting in touch with Moe about the first aid CPR class. Matt asked Dean if he was still certified, Dean said he wasn't sure.

Clerk Treasurer: June Bank Reconciliation is complete, balanced, and signed off from Suzy Bass.

MacKenzie told the council she met with Janet Alexander last Thursday and built a nice, strong, and realistic budget. MacKenzie told the council she'd get paperwork in their boxes for them soon. MacKenzie told the council the public hearing for the budget will take place August 28th at 5:00pm. The public hearing will be announced to be opened before the regular council meeting. Any questions or comments may be asked. If there's nothing, then the meeting closes. After that, call the regular town council meeting to order and proceed like normal. September 11th at 5:00pm will be the adoption. This will happen right at the beginning, make a motion to formerly adopt the 2025 budget and then processed with regular town council business once it passes. MacKenzie said it's important to have you all here or at least 2/3 so the budget passes.

There is an amendment to the salary ordinance. This is a retroactive ordinance to include Avery's raise for meeting his 1000 OJT hours. Dean made a motion to approve the amended salary ordinance. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved the adopt the amended salary ordinance.

Someone asked what is going on with the old park equipment. MacKenzie announced tear down will begin September 11. A posting will be made so families that helped build the playground area can come and get their plaques and other wood pieces they may want. Vernon said he had a gentleman that was interested in the slides and the boarder. He thought he would get 500 for the slides to put back into the park fund and 150 for some of the boarder. The mulch will be placed in a tote to use as filler for Eagle Park. Excavating will begin toward the end of September.

MacKenzie told everyone to be thinking about the Holiday Dinner. Last year we just had the event catered at the Town Hall and that seemed to work out relatively well. In the past, we've tried to do this in November. Dean asked, does everyone like Nelsons? MacKenzie said, we can look into that.

New Business: Farmer's Day is this weekend.

Rick told the council he wanted to start by apologizing as our town engineer for not being in attendance of the meetings this past year. Rick said, so everyone is aware I do call MacKenzie to discuss agenda items every Wednesday afternoon when Town Council meetings are being held. Then, the next day she informs me of what's happened. There was a lot of discussions with chickens and I couldn't help you with that anyway. Rick said, Dean I know you've asked about doing side walk grants. The best way to go about that is by applying for a CCMG. When you include the road, include sidewalks since it's a 75% match. The first round for 2025 will be in January. Rick said, he wanted to make it very clear that TRIAD does not look at Millersburg as a small client. Triad services Wolcottville and Ligonier, and many more. Rick asked MacKenzie, wouldn't you agree I get back with you in no more than two days. MacKenzie said, except for the closeout, but I know that wasn't you directly. He said that was an unfortunate scenario and we've never had the experience with a contractor. The second round of CCMG has been filed and we'll probably find out in November or December whether or not the town qualifies.

Jeff Rowe with Baker Tilly was in attendance. Jeff explained to the council that he had a zoom call with Avery and MacKenzie. After discussing RFP's and BOT's Jeff asked Avery and MacKenzie about the last rate study. Neither Avery or MacKenzie knew when the last one was done. Jeff said he completed the last rate study the town had. The last rate study was a gradual increase for three years and then halted. As everyone is aware there's a trend of increase and inflation. Chemicals, testing, maintenance, and repairs have become more costly to efficiently run utilities. Jeff said he is here to offer his services to the town if we desired having a rate study. Many other municipalities are going through the process of completing a rate study. Avery suggested we have one completed. Dean asked, how long does a rate study take? Jeff explained, due to the busy time we are looking at ninety days when usual it would take thirty. Jeff told the council, if you are interested just let me know and we'll get a contract written up.

Old Business: Avery told the council the plaque we discussed months ago about mounting and placing across the street is done. Avery's just waiting for the guy to connect with him.

Dean asked, what's going on with the property on SR-13? Vernon told the council, I know MacKenzie wanted to sit down and talk with Harley about it. Before the sit down was scheduled to occur Harley reached out to Vernon and asked what was going on. Vernon told Harley the appraisal came in extremely low because the ground isn't buildable. Harley explained he had no interest in meeting with us if we were going to try and negotiate with him. MacKenzie said she was going to send Harley an email and also explain the town may be trying to raise donations for the remainder of the asking price, but wasn't sure if it would actually reach his number.

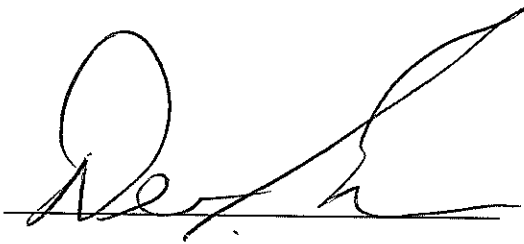
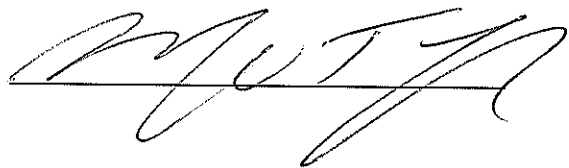
Vernon said, this is how that gentleman is though, it's his way or no way. MacKenzie said she's still holding onto hope.

Dean asked about the vandalism at the park. Ray told the council Kyle got a hold of the minor's parents and they will pay the three hundred dollar fine. It was asked if the mirrors have been replaced. Vernon said he is not going to replace the mirrors for fear that this could happen again. Vernon patched, fixed the dry wall, and repainted the area. Dana told Vernon that's definitely fine to leave the mirrors out of the bathroom. Dean asked, is the case closed? Ray replied yeas. Ray said he would get an idea of when they are planning on paying. Larry said, previously we spoke about legal fees and prosecuting them, do we want to push on that? Dean said he does not want to see this happen again. Ray explained, after kids get caught, they typically will not do it again because it scares the snot out of them. Vernon said he hasn't seen the kids in the park since this incident. Dean said, next time we are pressing charges if something like this happens again.

Dean announced they have four applications for the Street Department. Dean said he would like to bring in the four applicants, interview them, and make a decision from there. Dean asked if everyone was okay with that? Everyone was okay with doing this on Monday at 5:00pm. Matt asked, will I have any part in this process? Dean told him he should.

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dean', written over a horizontal line.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dana', written over a horizontal line.