



January 22, 2025

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Larry Randolph, Dean Smith, Dana Rutter, Jeremy Hardy, Addie Miller, Niblock Representative, Phend & Brown Representative, Mike Dull, Corey Oberlin, Vernon Miller, Ray Rodriguez, and Avery Ferguson.

Dean called the meeting to order.

Dean made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 8, 2025. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business: Jeremy Hardy started with opening the bids for the 2024-02 Community Cross Match Grant. Jeremy said, once the bids have been read, we will go with the lowest bidder and start getting contacts pulled together to present at the next town council meeting.

Phend & Brown: Base bid= \$83,706, alternant bid 1= \$10,980, alternant bid 2= \$70,562, **total all three combined= \$143,378.00**

Niblock: Base bid= \$88,163, alternant bid 1= \$12,569, alternant bid 2= \$54,746.35, total all **three combined= \$130,340.35**

Pulver= Base bid= \$88,820, alternant bid 1= \$13,725, alternant bid 2= \$59,415, total all **three combined= \$134,510.00**

Water: Avery started by stating last week there was a power surge, and the entire back corner of the town lost power. During the surge, the generator was disrupted, it should have automatically kicked on with the switch. Avery had Middlebury Electric come out. The technician discovered the switch had burned out. Avery explained, he had to make a call right then and there and the switch is crucial to the water operation so he had to order one. The switch came in today and it will be \$5,000-\$6,000 plus Middlebury Electrics labor. Dean asked about the power surge and what happened. Avery said, on Facebook he saw someone had commented that a pick-up truck went off of the road and went into some wires. The surge happened around 4:00am. Avery was unsure when the power actually came back on.

Avery presented the council with a quote for hydro blasting. Avery told the council he spoke with a company to come sandblast, prime, and paint (safety yellow, color) the hydrants. They're due for an upgrade. Avery counted 50 hydrants that need to have this done. Avery

said, he did not include the Forest River plants because he wasn't sure if they belong to the town or Forest River, he's heard contradictions about this. Avery said he also did not include the small hydrants in Timber Valley. The quote is for \$13,250 and is for all 50 hydrants. The council asked MacKenzie about funds. MacKenzie said the water improvement line item is a healthy fund and can support this. Dean motioned to accept the quote for the hydrants. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to have the hydrant work done. Avery said they will more than likely begin this project around April 15, 2025.

Avery said last year this was approved but it didn't get completed until just now. This is in regard to the valve pit below the water tower. Monday it was worked on, it's complete, and back in operation. Larry said, and there was no interruption of service. Avery concurred, there was no interruption of service, he just wanted to post something informing the residents incase something happened.

Avery said, correction to the January 8 meeting minutes. The chlorine system for water has not been fixed. Stouder was called down to North Carolina so they weren't able to work on this. The parts have been ordered and Stouder will complete per their schedule.

Wastewater: Avery said last meeting I mentioned about getting a different vacuum pump for Tina when she's testing solids. Avery gave the council some quotes. On the front page, the highlighted one, Avery thinks this one will work the best for them. The quote is for \$1,039.00. Larry asked if the 3.5 system would be too big? Avery said yes, it would be too big and it's too expensive for what is needed. Dean asked Avery if the other one is currently working? Avery said it is, but IDEM has changed some requirements and the flask is taking her a lot longer to get through testing. Dana said it sounds like he (Avery) needs it. Dean made a motion to approve the expense for a new vacuum pump. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was approved to order a new vacuum pump. Dana mentioned, it sounds like there's been years of neglect and Avery is trying to catch everything up.

Avery informed the council, CO2 went up to \$209.00 per cylinder from JCI Jones.

Avery has been having issues with the flow meter freezing up. Avery's explained this to IDEM and hasn't had any push back. With the negative temperatures, we haven't had awful issues but there have been some with the pipes and valves. As it warms up Avery will get those corrected.

Avery said tomorrow he started the 3rd semester for wastewater. This semester is about prep for the exam. This should take about six weeks, depending on when they schedule the trainings.

Community Development: MacKenzie said, if you haven't already, please take the survey I sent out via email. Reminder the Vibrant Communities meeting is Friday at 9:30am.

After a discussion with Avery, let's plan on a middle of March newsletter to send out to the residents.

Maintenance: Corey said, last week the heater went out at the maintenance building. Bills Heating came out today. The technician said the blower motor is going bad and told Corey they will order the part if they can find it.

Monday Corey discovered there's a big tree that sits on the corner of Washington and SR 13; the limb looks like it's ready to fall down. Corey told Avery, where you park on your lunch break, it's probably not a good idea to park there. There's a total of 4 trees in town that need to be trimmed as soon as possible. Corey said, I'm not positive if it's our responsibility or the homeowner? Avery said unfortunately, the ones that Corey briefly explained are in the right away so that would be the towns. Corey said his brother has a tree removal job and he has done some work in this town previously. Corey had his brother quote him and said it would be \$650.00 to take care of the four trees. Dean said, he doesn't think that's a horrible price. It'd be better to get them taken down before one falls on someone's car. Dean made a motion to approve the expense for the tree trimming/limb removal. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was approved to expend \$650 on tree trimming/tree limb removal.

Corey asked about the tire machine, does it work? Corey hasn't had much success with it. Avery said it worked, but it isn't very strong. Corey said he knows someone that's interested in it if we are able to sell it. Avery said it works for car tires but isn't very strong. It will not do truck tires. Dean asked, how often do you use it? Avery said he never used it when he was on the maintenance department. Corey said he doesn't use it either. Corey said, the main lever isn't even attached to it. Dean said check on eBay and see what they're possibly worth. Dean asked, where did you get it? Avery replied, he was certain he got it from Dean when he had the automotive business on the corner of SR 13 and Lincoln. Dean agreed that Avery was right. Dean said that tire machine was not worth much. If you can get \$100.00 out of it get rid of it.

Corey said the white 09, the bolts came loose again and is leaking like crazy. Larry suggested using lock-tight.

Larry asked Corey about laying stone down at the maintenance building. Larry said, it turns into a muddy mess. Corey explained to the council he doesn't want to begin that project until at least spring time when the weather clears up.

Marshal: Ray told the council there are four cameras in the park that are offline. The others are working fine. Bontrager Security will look into it and get back with their findings.

Ray said he had a zoom meeting in regard to the Flock Camera system. He said Flock told him to ask the businesses in town if they'd be okay with putting up cameras. Ray spoke with 2/4 and they were okay with this. He will get in touch with Judd Shrock and Stan Chupp about putting a camera on their building. Larry told Ray, let me know when you are planning on meeting with them because he would like to go along. So far, the accounting firm and Dollar General said yes. Larry asked, what's the cost again? Ray said it's \$3,000 per camera (obtaining 4) and then installation is \$3,000. The first year it will be \$15,000 then the following years it will go down to \$12,000 per year. Ray said the cameras will be beneficial for the town; he'll be able to review footage just like he can on our current camera system. The Falcon cameras are license plate readers and it's good if we are looking for a stolen car. Larry said, can't it read license plates up to ½ a mile? Ray said, he doesn't think it's that far.

Park: Vernon said, it's been the same as it was two weeks ago.

Ray mentioned he looked at the cameras and saw on Saturday at midnight there was a small silver SUV driving inappropriately, tearing up the grass. Then a couple of weeks ago, Ray saw a red Ford truck doing doughnuts in the parking lot near the ball diamonds. Ray has looked for the truck and has not had any luck finding it.

Clerk Treasurer: MacKenzie said the W2's and 1099's have been uploaded.

December bank reconciliation is complete and Suzy Bass has signed off on it. The council approved the December bank rec as well.

MacKenzie said she would like to contract work with Joe Wells again for the town's assets. She said he does it all, I know it's done correctly, and it's one less thing I don't have to worry about. MacKenzie said she doesn't have a cost of what it will be for this year, but last year it

was \$3,000 something she believes. The council gave MacKenzie permission to work again with Joe Wells.

Old Business: Avery said he was finally able to make contact with someone at Nipsco in regard to adding a light pole back in Timber Valley where the bus picks up children. The Nipsco rep will come out and mark a location next week and connect it to the transformer. Avery said, technically it's our area but he would like to give a notice to the homeowner. Avery said we are getting the same style of light as what we currently have in town. It will be about \$18-\$20 a month and no cost for installation. It is an 18-month commitment though.

Avery said, a while back we talked about getting cameras at the water plant. Apparently, Floyd Beachy retired in December. Avery said he didn't know until he got a call this week from Teledata and discussed this with them. So now, Avery is working through this since it was stalled for a while.

Avery informed the council he and MacKenzie heard back about the water rate study. Avery told the council, you're welcome to talk with them. Baker Tilly said they don't feel the need to increase any of the rates.

Dean motioned to pay bills. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote bills were unanimously approved.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. J. T.', written in a cursive style.