



Town Council Meeting Minutes  
October 25, 2023

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Dean Smith, Austin Turner, Jim Winkler, Jerold Miller, Gary Kauffman, Larry Randolph, Larry from Millersburg Feed Store, Avery Ferguson, Ray Rodriguez, Haley Hurst, and Matt King.

Dean made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from October 11, 2023. Jim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to adopt the meeting minutes.

**Water:** Avery told the council he attended one day of training in Fort Wayne for a water/wastewater conference. He said he will be applying for an apprenticeship program and hopes to start that early next year. Some of the training is online and some is onsite. He said he should be able to use up GI bill for some of the cost and grants are available.

Tomorrow, MacKenzie and I will be training with utility supply company on the new belt reader for meter reads.

Avery told the council at the conference they made reference to the lead service line survey. There's still a lot of unknowns about it, but this will be a timely and could be a costly project if this all falls back on the town. Avery informed the council he has a webinar tomorrow and then a conference in Churubusco in a couple of weeks and should find out more.

A few miscellaneous items. I'm getting my fire extinguisher serviced tomorrow. Bill's Heating, will they be coming out soon to service my furnace soon? Jim replied that he would find out and get back with Avery. Avery also informed the council he is trying to cut down on his hours. I'm in talks with MacKenzie on trying to reduce more of it.

**Wastewater:** Avery presented the quote for the multi-lab equipment. This is the more advanced piece and it won't require as much change out for testing purposes. The quote is \$3,140. Dean and Jim both agreed they like this one better. MacKenzie said, we'd use ARPA on this since it is a utility improvement. Dean made a motion to accept the expense of the lab equipment. Jim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to purchase the lab equipment.

I have Cummin's coming out to look at a piece of equipment that's been throwing errors at me every once in a while. Come to find out, they couldn't come out quicker because there was an outstanding bill that MacKenzie didn't receive. It's paid now and all good.

Harley suggested to me that we need to get a space heater at the plant so we don't run into the same issue as we have been in the past. There are also some maintenance issues that need to be taken care of at the plant. Such as a new door, maybe roof and some other things.

The end of October I'll be shutting down the chlorine and SO2 at wastewater.

Working on land application and getting in touch Dean Rink.

Harley and I re-did the quality assurance test and got that submitted. Justin Stouder said he took care of the IDEM situation.

**Maintenance:** Matt said he took delivery of the new ditch bucket yesterday. We've been trying to get leaves cleaned up but it's been a little bit of a challenge. People are throwing their sticks into the pile, then that shuts us down for a while because we have to clean it out and start up again.

Matt said I know these gentlemen have some questions in regard to the maintenance department, do you want them to go first? Jim said, that is fine. Jerold said, I have a question about the overpass and keeping the weeds down, who is responsible for that? I have a question about town ordinances as far as trash and grass are concerned. Do we have rules for this, are people held accountable? Jim said yes, we have ordinances in regards to trash and grass. We try our best to hold individuals accountable. Our police department writes out warnings and citations. As far as the bridge, County owns that, the Town is responsible for the road approaches. Jim continued, what we try to do is keep the weeds down on the side of it, and the sidewalk for people to walk on. We don't have the equipment on the sides to keep the weeds down on the side of it. Jerold asked, we don't? Jim said, we have talked about spraying it but there was an issue with County in the past. They dictate what they are responsible for, it's difficult to pin down. Gary said, the Town used to spray it. Matt jumped in and said yes, then I got in trouble from County because of the type of weed killer I was using. They told me it could deteriorate the bridge. Gary had a suggestion of a good weed killer to use that shouldn't deteriorate the bridge. Gary asked, could you find out from County what you're allow to use? Matt suggested they could weed eat? Jerold said, he sent some guys to work on the overpass. Jerold said, I just think it would be great if we could get that cleaned up. Jerold informed everyone; he is not opposed to helping out. Larry also agreed.

Jerold asked about the ordinances and if we have set ones for tall grass and junk/trash. Matt explained we do, but we have to give the residents so many days to respond/clean it up and they normally do in a timely manner when they get those.

Larry asked about the large pot hold on CR 140 and Cook Street. It's been there for a couple of years and it's bad. Matt said, we've been meaning to fix that then something always comes up. It's been on our plan to get that done in the next CCMG round and it will be on it for this round.

Larry asked about the row of trees that have become overgrown near Riegsecker's house. Matt said, we used to have a nice mower and would maintain that then someone got rid of it. Larry said, it wouldn't take that long to do. I don't know how much help you have here. Matt said it's just two of us. Larry said, if we can help clean up, we will. Matt said, thank you, I appreciate that.

Larry started by saying, I'm not sure if you know of this still going on or not but that organization Enhancing Millersburg, we are trying to get that up and going again. We don't want it to be just for the downtown area, we want all of Millersburg to be able to utilize this. We want to help clean up this town and help anyone that may have a project they need a hand with. Everyone in the room was very appreciative of the guys here tonight that were willing to lend a helping hand where ever it's needed.

Gary discussed the different organizations... He said, it would be so nice if we could all work together and get on the same page. There was some back and forth with the Town and Friends of the Park with who should be responsible for paying what and I think it'd be best to just sit down and have a dialogue. Matt said I was told to go get the trailer like the day before and didn't know anything. The communication was lost. We were expected to post all of the signs, and we did that. Then we took all of the trash and we burned a lot of our diesel fuel having to haul things for them back and forth. Haley said, I offered to attend a meeting for Friends of the Park and never got a call back. There was a decent amount of dialogue, point being we all need to work together. No matter what committee someone is on, let's start meeting together so we can lend a hand to another where it's needed. Committees will all gather together on November 15<sup>th</sup> after the Council meeting so we can start being more involved with one another/helping one another.

**Marshal:** Ray said, for Trick or Treating Kyle and Walter will be here patrolling.

**Park:** Matt showed Vernon how to winterize the park and they completed all of this today.

Haley said, just so everyone is aware Kenny Jones, the youth football coach, said he is no longer in charge of the program.

**Clerk Treasurer:** September Bank reconciliation is complete and Suzy Bass has signed off on it.

This is the amended salary ordinance to up the merit pay/bonuses from \$100.00-\$200.00. Reason behind this suggestion is because MacKenzie is required to take out perf and taxes. By

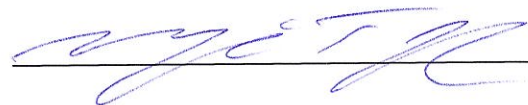
the time all is said and done, that doesn't leave the employee with much. Dean made a motion to adopt the amended salary ordinance. Jim seconded the motion to adopt the amended salary ordinance. Upon voice vote the amended salary ordinance was adopted.

**New Business:** Dean asked, what's this 12<sup>th</sup> Man Club? MacKenzie said, it goes along with what Haley stated about Kenny Jones. I spoke with him yesterday and he informed me he was pushed out, he's not really sure why. Everyone in the room commended Kenny for bringing that football league to the park. Jerold said, it's been a huge success for Millersburg. Judd even said it's really helped his business. MacKenzie said, it's been incredible. The RDC has been fortunate enough to work alongside Kenny and making sure he has whatever he needed out there. MacKenzie said, I hope this doesn't ever happen, but my fear is they relocate the program. Jerold said, that would be devastating because a lot of local businesses gave their time and money to help this thrive. Austin Turner said, he doesn't think that will happen.

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

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

The next and only council meeting for November is November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:00pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R. Deane", written over a horizontal line.A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jim", written over a horizontal line.