



Town Council Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2023

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Jim Winkler, Dean Smith, Austin Turner, Rick Pharis, Ray Rodriguez, Robert Roa, Larry Randolph, Avery Ferguson, Moses Yoder, Haley Hurst, Vernon Miller, Amber Gingerich, John Veenstra, Matt King, and Tim Michaels.

Dean called the meeting order at 5:00pm.

Dean made a motion to adopt the 2024 Budget Ordinance. Jim Winkler seconded the motion to adopt the 2024 Budget Ordinance. Upon voice vote the 2024 Budget Ordinance was unanimously approved.

Dean made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from September 13, 2023. Jim Winkler seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Water: Avery started by informing anyone who received a new charge card from Dollar General to go into the store right away, speak with John so he can get our charge cards working properly.

Last meeting, we discussed about getting our town vehicles properly marked. Both of my trucks are properly plated and one vehicle does have the magnet utilities vehicle on it.

New belt reader should be on its way and we can hopefully start using that new equipment and getting ourselves familiar to it. I did find an old belt reader Ben had, maybe we can trade it in and receive a discount on this new one.

Avery said, I still need to order another scale for the water plant. ARPA can fund this because it is a utility enhancement/improvement.

I did take an entire week off last week to try and chop down my comp time.

Rick asked, have you reached out to any grant people about the lead line replacement? Avery said he has tried but didn't have any luck. Rick said, I'll get with you on this.

Wastewater: As you may know, we got a nasty letter from IDEM in regard to the chlorine line that was broken. The ammonia and ecoli numbers were way out of line. So, we are on their radar, Avery stated. The issue is resolved. Stouder Services is writing up a letter to explain the situation to IDEM.

I would like to use the ARPA funds to get some new lab equipment. Avery showed the council a couple of sample items and probes that cost above \$500.00. Avery stated, our equipment is 10 years old and should have been replaced a long time ago. It's good to update the equipment every few years, and it should give us more of an accurate read. Dean asked MacKenzie if there were enough funds available. MacKenzie said yes, ARPA is still a healthy fund and this expense would be considered a utility enhancement/improvement by giving us more accurate readings for when we have to test. Dean made a motion to approve the expense and/or expenses to purchase new lab equipment. Austin Turner seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to purchase new lab equipment over the \$500.00 threshold.

Avery asked permission to invite Harley and his wife to the Town Holiday Employee Dinner. All Council members agreed he could do this.

Dean asked Avery, did you talk with Tanner? Avery replied no, but Tina said something to me yesterday. He (Tanner) hasn't reached out to me and I don't have his number. Avery asked, are you inquiring about him coming back? Dean said I just want you to talk with him. Jim asked, is this the guy who brought in waste? Dean replied, yeah. Jim said, this created a big problem for us, I am not in favor of having him come back. Dean said, I got some mixed reports on the entire story and I just want you to look into this for me. Avery said I will ask Harley if this is okay for us to allow. If yes, we'd write up a contract with some strict guidelines. I also would need a vote from you three on whether or not we allow him back, only if Harley says it's okay. Jim asked, where is he dumping now? Dean said, Topeka. Austin mentioned, Topeka just got a brand-new water and wastewater treatment plant. Dean said, I'm just curious if anyone else has had a problem. Let's table it until the next meeting.

Community Development: MacKenzie said she met with Shannon Oaks yesterday for a couple of hours going over this action agenda. MacKenzie gave everyone a copy, I need and want honest input and feedback in regards to this. Then, we can be sure we're all on the same page. I need responses by October 14.

Marshal: A few weeks ago, I attended a RDC meeting, Ray said. Larry thought they may be able to help out with the street cameras. I showed them the quotes for the park cameras and street cameras. Since the street cameras didn't really fall into the category of the park, the RDC decided to pay for the entire park camera system. The street cameras are a little over \$16,000. Jim asked if these are the cameras that can take pictures of license plates? Ray said, these would be regular cameras like we have. Dean said, wasn't there a question on the internet service? There are cables that run along Jefferson and there is internet service over here on the streets, Ray said. The Council asked MacKenzie if the money was there. MacKenzie said she wants to look over the budget for this year and next year and try to find a ruling on the CCD Fund. I would say if CCD is allowed to pay for this then this would be okay.

Ray said, Robert has been getting calls on his personal phone when he is off duty. If anyone calls you about some problem in town, tell them to call dispatch so he doesn't get these calls when he is off.

Maintenance: Matt said, we fired up the leaf vac and it's ready to go. Still, no sticks, rocks, and limbs in the leaf piles. MacKenzie said she added that information into the Newsletters and they will be going out tomorrow.

Park: Dean asked, how are things going? Vernon said, I love it. 15-20 hours a week, it's great. The RDC asked me about planting trees and helping them with that. The RDC has discussed getting one row or two rows of trees. One row would be 26 trees and two rows would be 41 trees. They will require a lot of water for their first year of life. Avery said, before you go through with these plans... where you are wanting to plant them is in the well field. Let me get the State regulations to make sure this would be acceptable.

Vernon said he wants to remove the dead/gross trees that are near the volleyball courts. It's a filthy tree and they make an awful mess. I was thinking we could get donations for trees. Have a family buy a specific type of tree then the town would only need to purchase a plaque for the tree. So, we are talking 200-300 for a single tree, the family would pay for, then we just buy a custom plaque. Vernon said, I already know of several families that would be willing to do this. Matt suggested getting the plaques made from Cutting Edge, they are local and would probably do this for us. All council members were in favor of removing the trees, having a family pay for a tree, and then the town purchase a plaque from Cutting Edge.

Matt informed everyone he will be gone from October 5th- October 10th.

Clerk Treasurer: MacKenzie said she does not have bank rec to sign off on yet, Suzy hasn't had a chance to look it over.

MacKenzie and Avery spoke in regards to Avery's comp time. We decided that should try and burn more of his time. We will reassess and see where he's at mid-November to pass a resolution to pay him for his comp time due to the situation.

Jim informed the council about a phone call MacKenzie received from Brightspeed about renewing a bond with us. MacKenzie initially asked for paperwork from the gentleman and told the gentleman and council she didn't have the slightest idea on this situation. It's apparently a \$2000 Surety Bond, they pay us \$100 a year for it. MacKenzie doesn't have any recollection of receiving money for this, she said she did but that's because she canceled a phone line with them. Jim said, he called me the next day, had very little information. I will call him tomorrow and inform him we don't want anything to do with this, if you're all okay with this. The rest of the council was fine with this.

New Business: Rick gave the council a letter to have Dean sign and then send to INDOT. This letter is stating that Blessing Street should be accounted for in the gas tax the town receives from the County Auditor. The town currently has just under 6 miles of streets. Dean signed the document and gave a copy to Rick and to MacKenzie. This won't become effective until after the new year.

Rick gave the council an engineering agreement for the amount of \$5,900. Rick explained, so things are changing a bit. The State is requiring all communities need an updated plan. This includes all new street photos. To qualify for CCMG this has to be approved by LTAP by December 1st. I'm bringing this to you now if you want us to go forward with this. Jim asked, didn't we just have photos taken not long ago? Rick said, I don't believe so... it has to be ALL of the streets. They want new photos every two years. Dean asked the council their thoughts. Jim said, well it has to be done to qualify for CCMG. MacKenzie said, there is money there in professional services. Dean approved the engineering expense. Jim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved.

Tim Michaels is here to show the council his plans to add a new building near his existing buildings on Wabash. Tim stated he has received the proper permits from County already. Tim is wanting to tie into our utilities. Tim gave all of the council members, MacKenzie, and Avery his prints. Tim presented, since I already own South Edge Furniture, can I just tie into their sewer lines? The Council was not in favor of this. The Council suggested doing a separate tap incase anything would ever happen and the buildings sell separately. Tim was fine with this. Tim asked for suggestions on who he should use to bore the lines. Simultaneous everyone suggested Haskins. Tim said he would get them a call. Avery and Tim exchanged contact information and Avery will be working directly with him on making the tap and connection.

Tim Michael's also sent a letter from Nipsco stating he would like to see a flashing light at the intersection of SR 13 and CR 44. Tim stated, people are racing out there and there's very little patrol out there. I thought I'd try to request a light a see what happens. Jim said, unfortunately that is County's jurisdiction and CR 44 is not within out town limits.

MacKenzie said she had a meeting with Moe earlier to discuss partnering to have Santa Claus come to town. We are having him come December 2nd from 9am-11am. We are trying something new too. We want to have a dog dress up costume contest out near the pavilion. Santa will judge the cutest dog and present an award. We want to make it versatile and utilize both indoor and outdoor.

Moe asked about testing the tornado siren on October 7, at noon. Everyone was in agreement and MacKenzie would let Jessica know to post something on Facebook. Moe asked about putting a lock on the siren, so only those with keys can have access to it. Austin Turner provided

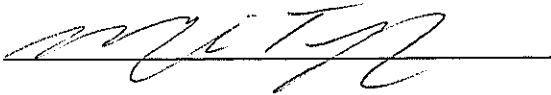
Moe with a lock and keys since it's Middlebury Electric's pole who performed the work on it last year.

Mackenzie will notify Goshen News to advertise our Trick or Treating time.

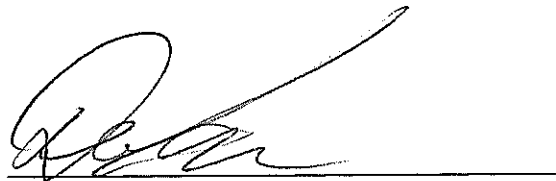
Amber asked the council when the bridge will be cleaned up from an accident that took place over the weekend. Matt said he would go and take a look at it. Austin said, you will need a new guard rail and post for a sign near the walkway.

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. Jim seconded the motion to adjourn. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to pay bills.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Matt', written above a horizontal line.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Amber', written above a horizontal line.