

**TOWN OF
DARMSTADT, INDIANA**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

Minutes of
January 14th 2020

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

TOWN COUNCIL

Paul Freeman, President
Aaron Kendall, Council Member
Ken Godeke, Council Member
Ray Engler, Council Member

CLERK-TREASURER

Mallory Lowe
P. O. Box 20
Darmstadt, In 47618

Board president, Paul Freeman, called the town meeting to order at 7:30pm. In attendance were President Paul Freeman, Clerk-Treasurer Mallory Lowe, council members Aaron Kendall, Ken Godeke and Ray Engler. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Goerges and attorney Jason Spindler.

Godeke made a motion, seconded by Kendall to appoint Ray Engler as Council member for District 2. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote. Ray Engler took the oath of office.

Godeke made a motion, seconded by Kendall to approve Paul Freeman as this year's council president. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

Kendall made a motion, seconded by Godeke to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

Godeke made a motion, seconded by Kendall to approve last month's financial report. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

Kendall made a motion, seconded by Engler to approve the accounts payable claims. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

In the clerk's office: Lowe noted that December and 2019 are closed out on the books now and is working on our Annual Report that is due to the State by Feb 28th. Our 100R Elected Officials report to state will be completed this week, in addition to completing, submitting and mailing out everyone's W2's before the end of the month.

In the Utility Department: Lowe stated there is a House bill HB1165 being presented through the state house tomorrow by an Indiana landlord that may affect the way municipalities collect on water and sewer fees. It's up for vote tomorrow and there have been many emails and info circulating from other towns and AIM representatives concerning this bill. Lowe contacted Jeff Hatfield today about it and his nephew, Ryan Hatfield is on the Utility Committee. Lowe informed Jeff of the situation, Jeff Hatfield stated he would pass the information onto Ryan. Lowe advised that many towns along with AIM representatives and legislators are trying to make their voice heard before tomorrow. Lowe stated that we recorded and submitted liens last week to the Vanderburgh county auditor's office by the deadline. Aaron and Lowe completed inventory of town properties, wells and sewer users to update our records.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

No new business

Superintendent Report

Jeff noted that their upcoming projects will be cleaning out ditches around town and he presented council with photos. They had 9 sewer calls last month and 10 calls so far this month. The new pumps they have switched to have been doing very well. Jeff stated they have been reading their data recorders and checking the readings. Jeff noted that the pressure is down in town and he would like to stay with these new sewer pumps. Jeff stated they are going to build a house near the vet clinic and Jeff has looked over the plans. Jeff noted that we need to look into requiring a street cutting permit. Council agreed. Jeff stated he should know when a street will be cut since he receives all the locates.

Fire Dept Report

Not present

Deputy Sheriff Report

not present

Board member comments

Ray Engler noted he is happy to join council and has a new work email for this position that Mallory will send out to council and superintendent.

Aaron Kendall asked Jeff how the new bobcat mini excavator was doing. Jeff said all was good and it will work great for the upcoming ditch work.

Attorney comments

Spindler noted we may need to have some special meetings coming up soon concerning the proposed bond.

Resident comments

Kate Potter, local business owner of America Honey Market, advised that the annual Darmstadt Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, April 4th and the Annual Darmstadt Day and Bierstube will be June 6th. Kate Potter asked that we help spread the word and that more volunteers are always needed for both events.

Tom Small asked if the town had looked into adding an additional payment option for the sewer bills like ACH that German Water added. Lowe replied yes, many of our residents currently pay via ACH payments. Lowe stated she also called German water and spoke to them about their new system used for payments. Lowe advised that German Twp Water is a company and not a municipal utility like Darmstadt Sewer is and their software is different. Lowe advised that the town has reviewed adding an autopay option before, not just an ACH, but the fees were high to town and to the customer. The current online ACH bill pay that customers use through their bank is free. Lowe advised before we add additional payment procedures, to the others we already have in place, we would need to review autopay systems again to see if the fees have decreased since we checked last time. Lowe advised she will learn the latest acceptable options for municipal utilities, that integrate with Keystone Municipal software, when she attends the Indiana State conference next week.

Small stated that he would like to see the council members change out more often, especially the town president. Freeman advised that he has only been president for 13 months and that those procedures are already in place to vote for new president every 12 months. Freeman also advised that he plans to retire from town council at the end of his 4-year term. Freeman stated that all 3 council members are new, have only served for one year or less and all came on the board at different staggered intervals. Small insisted the positions needed to change more often.

Leslie Croce, resident, stated that the town people may be pleased with the job the elected official is doing and would want them to continue to work for the town. Small walked out.

Phil McElroy stated that the procedure has been in place for years to vote for a new council president annually. McElroy advised he liked the procedure of voting in a new board president each year and it gives everyone a chance to serve if they like. Council agreed.

Eric Gries asked about the utility house bill. Eric noted that if we ever needed a collection agency he used Medical and Professional Collections Agency for his business and they were very good.

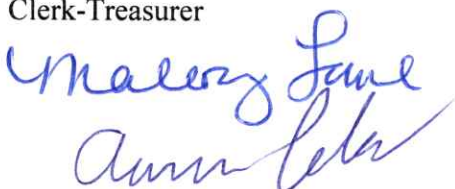
Jeff Goerges asked Eric Gries about our shop dumpster cost since Advanced Disposal continues to raise the rates on us. Eric Gries recommended contacting Larry Marshall Disposal for a better price and service for the shop. Jeff will contact Larry Marshall Disposal.

Boy Scout, Elijah, attended the meeting for Citizenship in the community and taking notes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe
Clerk-Treasurer



Mallory Lowe
Ann Cole