

**TOWN OF
DARMSTADT, INDIANA**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

**Minutes of
July 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 (arrived about 7:50pm), Ken Godeke and Ray Engler. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Goerges and attorney Jason Spindler.

Godeke made a motion, seconded by Engler to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed 3-0 voice vote. Godeke made a motion, seconded by Engler to approve last month's financial report. Motion passed 3-0 voice vote. Engler made a motion, seconded by Godeke to approve the accounts payable claims. Motion passed 3-0 voice vote.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

In the clerk's office: We received our first property tax levy payment of the year last month, it was only \$1800 less than what we received this time last year, so that's good. We also received over \$5k in paid sewer liens. My Budget Workshop with the Department of Local Government Finance is scheduled for August along with all the other government units in Vanderburgh County. We have completed our Municipal Bond Debt Reporting entry on Gateway, Reedy Financial Group completed it to make sure we have it all correct. Since this is the first time Darmstadt has ever been in debt, it requires much more paperwork and submissions to State throughout the year, along with the payments and tax levies.

In the Utility Department: We've had about 7 people call filling their pools for one-time adjustment and a couple call watering gardens for summer averaging.

In General Town Items: The sheriff's department has been stationed on St Joseph Avenue in Darmstadt for the last week patrolling for speeders.

Old Business

1. Sewer Rate Ordinance 2020-6

Spindler advised that tonight is the public hearing to increase sewer rates to make up for the deficit that we are currently losing in the sewer dept. Spindler asked if there were any public comments, there were not. Engler made a motion, seconded by Godeke to pass the sewer rate increase. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote.

2. Sewer Inspections/Outflow

Jeff Goerges stated they have started the inspection program again for illegal connections to the sewer system. Jeff advised that Mallory Lowe has printed and is sending out the 570 letters to all the residents, tenants and landlords. Jeff stated he is taking the calls and resident information to schedule the inspections which will begin next week. Lowe prepared a violation letter; Spindler will add current legal wording.

3. Update on Municipal Bond

Engler noted that he and Aaron Kendall are reviewing the property for possible future plans.

New Business

1. Bank Bldg Tenants Lease Agreement

Lowe advised that the current tenants have requested a reduction in their monthly rent if they consider renewing their lease. Lowe noted that they still haven't paid the April rent and are a couple months behind in reimbursing for

utilities which they still have never put into their own name. The council discussed. Kendall made motion, seconded by Engler to not renew their lease. Motion passed with a 4-0 voice vote. Kendall advised that we need to contact our commercial real estate agent Kyle to begin advertising for new tenants. Jason Spindler will send notice to current tenants to let them know we will not renew their lease.

Superintendent Report

Jeff Goerges stated that they had 2 sewer calls on Saturday. Jeff noted that they've had 18 service calls. Jeff will continue to work on the sump pump inspection program and will contract out with a plumber to do his inspection work for him.

Fire Dept Report

Brandon Zimmer advised that they have had about 100 calls a month. Brandon noted that 3.5 minutes is the average response time. Brandon noted that retired council member Kahre mentioned that the ambulance is not at the station as much as they would like to see. Brandon stated that the ambulance is here more than it's not. Freeman thanked Brandon on the good response time to the accident on Wortman Road of the young boys.

Deputy Sheriff Report

Not present

Board member comments

No further comments

Attorney comments

No further comments

Resident comments

Eric Gries stated that since we've had the new 4 way stop installed with the rumble strips and all has gone well so far. Could we consider pulling out some of the rumble strips now since they cause an annoyance to neighbors. Freeman replied yes, we could review that intersection again for possible updates.

Freeman advised that since we are speaking about roads, INDOT is proposing to put in a J turn on Hwy 41. Spindler noted the public meeting will be held by INDOT at the 4H center on July 21st at 5:30pm and is open to everyone.

Phil Sorensen thanked the board for taking action about the tall grass at Mark Davis' house. Freeman noted that Russ Bittner needs to be commended, he did quite a bit of work at that house, worked with Mark Davis about getting rid of vehicles and planning on future work.

A (neighbor lady of Mark Davis', didn't announce name) asked when the rest would be done in the backyard. Aaron Kendall asked Russ Bittner since he is the most familiar with the property. Russ Bittner advised that much has been done, his son has made an offer to hire him to mow regularly. Kendall thanked Russ Bittner for the way he has handled it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe

Clerk-Treasurer


