

**TOWN OF
DARMSTADT, INDIANA**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

**Minutes of
August 10th 2021**

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 Attorney Jason Spindler, Superintendent Aaron Enlow and Asst. Maintenance Mick Moreland.

Kendall made a motion, seconded by Engler to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.
Kendall made a motion, seconded by Godeke to approve last month's financial report. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.
Kendall made a motion, seconded by Godeke to approve the accounts payable claims. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

Lowe advised- I re-submitted the Community Crossings Grant to INDOT on June 10th and we received the grant money on July 30th. We received \$166,773. Aaron has us on schedule with Metzger to get started on the road. I'll be meeting with the Dept of Local Government Finance on August 20th for our 2022 budget workshop.
In the Utility Department: I'm getting current quotes from Keystone to unlock our work order module on our utility software to track work orders and be able to track all customer information in one place. That would allow us all to be on same page and keep our records updated. We would also need a quote for a server to link computers. Paul Freeman stated that the council had already approved that back in February and to move forward with it. Lowe noted previous superintendent denied connecting computers. He's gone, so we can now move forward with update.
In General Town Items: Our 2-day annual AIM conference with State Board of Accounts and Dept of Local Government Finance is Aug 26th & 27th. Lastly, the Frog Follies will be here the 27th thru the 29th so we need all the roads mowed and plan ahead for the extra traffic that will be in town that weekend.

Old Business

1. Darmstadt position on Fire Territory Board

Freeman noted that Harold Grossman had volunteered to serve on Fire Board, he's on vacation and Paul will get with him to see if he's still interested. Brandon Zimmer advised he would be happy to answer any questions anyone has if they are interested in serving on the fire board.

2. Darmstadt position on the Solid Waste Board

Eric Gries volunteered to serve on the Solid Waste Board. Attorney Jason Spindler advised that a resident can serve on the board. Godeke made a motion, seconded by Kendall, to approve Eric Gries to represent Darmstadt on the Solid Waste Board. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

New Business

Paul Freeman stated that he has been reviewing the personnel department, speaking with the council members and researching the possibility to contract out the town's maintenance department. Freeman noted that he would like to get quotes from contractors for a company to run the entire maintenance department streets & sewer.
Kendall made a motion, seconded by Godeke to get free quotes from contractors to outsource our local town maintenance department. Kendall, Freeman and Godeke voted aye, Engler voted nay. Motion passed by 3-1 voice vote.

Superintendent Report

Aaron Enlow advised that they have been inspecting pump stations. Enlow advised of the 329 pump stations in town, they have inspected 263 so far. Enlow stated they have pinpointed 74 that are down, him and Mick have repaired 46 of them, got them working again and have 28 on the list scheduled for repairs.

Enlow advised after they finish the pump station inspections and repairs he would like to continue with sump pump inspections. Enlow stated that one of EWSU's mag meters is down and EWSU is supposed to have it repaired soon. In the meantime EWSU said they will be averaging Darmstadt's bill for July usage.

Fire Dept Report

Brandon Zimmer advised there were 144 runs last month, 15 of them were in Darmstadt with an average response time of 4.5 minutes.

Deputy Sheriff Report

Noah Robinson advised that an elderly resident on St Joseph Ave was targeted in a burglary. Noah also stated a dune buggy was stolen in town and there was a DUI and drunk driving arrest. Noah Robinson advised there were no crashes other than the DUI. He noted that residents & council can contact Sheriff's office to report problem areas of speeding.

Board member comments

Ken mentioned school starting, he is concerned about traffic by his house on Fleener. Ken Godeke stated he has the floor and can talk all he wants, after some residents spoke up.

Ray Engler stated that during our large town meeting in the maintenance shop the other 3 council members already had their plan ahead of time and walked out before letting the public speak or ask any questions. Ray said he is doing all he can do to provide transparency and abide by the Open Door Law for our residents.

Attorney comments

No further comments

Resident comments

Carol Schlumpf asked Jason Spindler if other towns he works with have contractors running their departments. Jason replied no, they do not contract out their departments it's kept in house local.

Mrs. Moers asked if Aaron Enlow and Mick Moreland have been doing a good job. Paul replied yes. Mrs. Moers asked why would you want to contract out the department if it's running good. Paul Freeman replied that he believes personnel problems continue to happen every 8 or so years and that similar problems tend to repeat.

Russ Bittner stated that every person is not the same in that position and that it's not right to decide based on the present two guys that had to work under Jeff.

There were several residents speaking out with council responding and arguing.

Mark Stocker stated that the town residents should be told what is happening in the town.

Russ Bittner stated that the board should give these guys a chance and move forward. Residents clapped.

Mr. Jim Dix stated that Paul never released the email he spoke about in the last meeting and why hasn't he had any communication with the maintenance department since Jeff left. Paul Freeman replied that the maintenance department has been running fine with Aaron and Mick and if they needed anything they would call.

Carol Schlumpf asked Paul again why the email wasn't released as promised.

Eric Gries asked the residents how many are against outsourcing, most of the residents present in the town meeting, raised their hands. Freeman replied that was not a representation of the entire town.

Gary Schmitt asked why Mallory Lowe can't monitor the maintenance employees. Paul Freeman explained that Mallory has enough on her plate with town responsibilities and already works many hours. Freeman asked Mallory's husband how many hours Mallory works, Mark Lowe replied Mallory works about 60 hours a week.

Ken Godeke added that Aaron and Mick send a report daily of everything they are doing which has been very good and everything is running good right now. Godeke stated that he has heard from Paul Freeman that the maintenance department seems to continue to have problems every 5 years, so he would like to move forward with looking into having a contractor. Mr. Moers advised that since we are not currently having a problem, why would we change things.

Brian Sollman asked if gathering quotes costs anything. Freeman stated that it doesn't cost anything to get quotes and do some fact finding.

Carol Schlumpf asked if we outsource our town maintenance how are they going to be monitored? Where will the accountability be? Carol was cut off.

Mark Stocker stated that Carol Schlumpf has the right to speak.

Eric stated that the council members should do what their residents in their district, they are representing, want them to do.

Mrs. Moers stated that the president should contact all of the council members, not just Ken and Aaron.

Kate Potter advised that she would like to see Aaron and Mick employed and even if we decide to go with a contracting company that if the contracting company would hire Aaron and Mick so that we still have them.

Mark Stocker stated he doesn't think we could find anyone better to run the town than Aaron and Mick.

Casey Hillenbrand stated that she would like to see the council all talk to each other and that she thinks it's a problem with pride and if they could fix that.

Jim Dix stated that 3 of the 4 board members walked out on the town residents during the big meeting. He stated that is where the problem is.

Carol Schlumpf asked if the council would agree to attend training from AIM on how to better communicate with each other and work through issues.

Cecil Poag stated he would like to see our council increased to 7 seats and have two of those be at large. Spindler advised yes that could be done.

The meeting adjourned 9:05pm

Attest:
Mallory Lowe
Clerk-Treasurer

