

**Town of
Darmstadt, Indiana**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

**Minutes of
July 16th 2024**

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

TOWN COUNCIL

Eric Gries, Council President
Ray Engler, Council Member
Cecil Poag, Council Member
Crystal Kahre, Council Member

CLERK-TREASURER

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

Darmstadt Town Council President Eric Gries called the town meeting to order on Tuesday at 6:30pm. In attendance were Clerk-Treasurer Mallory Lowe, council members Ray Engler, Cecil Poag, Crystal Kahre and attorney Josh Claybourn.

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

Clerk-Treasurer's Report

Mallory Lowe stated we received our June tax settlement and she paid the \$75,500 June bond payment for the old state land. Lowe noted that we had problems with Centerpoint and the 101 electric bills we receive every month. The bills normally can be paid online each month, but when Centerpoint changed all their account numbers, they made an error and deleted 88 of Darmstadt's 101 electric meters from our account. Lowe added she was on the phone with them for 1 ½ hours on 7/5/24 speaking with supervisors in Houston, who were trying to resolve the problem. As of today, Centerpoint still hasn't corrected Darmstadt's accounts.

Lowe advised, that the US Mail completely failed on the town's July sewer bill mailing. Darmstadt mailed out 550 bills on June 26th like normal, but this month, some were delivered on time, some were delivered 3 weeks later and some still haven't been delivered. The postmaster at the Inglefield post office, Jennifer, informed Lowe that Salem Church also had a large billing that went out the same day and none of theirs were delivered. The USPS has refunded their payment. Lowe advised that she has notified the local post office, and submitted a report to the USPS and the USPS sorting facility in Louisville. The managers in Indianapolis are looking into it, but no answers yet, as to where the mail has been for the last 3 weeks. The ones that were finally delivered were not postmarked at all. Lowe stated that she and council will waive late fees this month. Lowe notified the news stations, and put it on the group page and on the town website to notify what happened with the mail delivery. Lowe advised she continues to work on the financials and forms for the 2025 budget and the workshop meeting with the Department of Local Government Finance, which will be August 20th.

Fire Dept Report

Brandon Zimmer reported there were 12 runs, 7 Ems runs, 2 paramedic runs, and 1 vehicle fire with a 2.38 response time. Zimmer also added that the new fire engine is now in service.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Lt Christopher Roe stated there were 6 alarm runs, 56 extra patrols, 18 traffic stops, 7 business checks, and one abandoned vehicle check. Lt Roe also replied to residents about enforcing extra patrols for the speeders going through town especially requests on Martin and Hoing roads, from two residents, in addition to the main roads.

Maintenance Dept Report

Cecil Poag read aloud Aaron and Mick's maintenance report. Aaron and Mick completed 56 locates, 2 duplex rebuilds, they are going to start working on reducing the manholes and decreasing the I & I. They had 13 service calls since the last meeting. The whole town was mowed and is about ready to mow again. Aaron and Mick trimmed trees on Martin and Wortman Roads, moved the trees farther off the road on Darmstadt rd at the curve, repaired some road edges, applied weed preventer around signs and guardrails, completed rebuilding two duplex stations and started moving a problem pump station that they should finish in the coming weeks.

Old Business

1. EWSU Mandate Charges

Josh Claybourne stated he was still looking into the mandate charges and will update us as he learns more.

2. Tractor and Backhoe Replacement

Ray Engler stated that the proposals have all been previously emailed and reviewed by the council, questions have been answered, and the proposal is ready for the Backhoe replacement with the new Case backhoe with complete warranty for \$110,420. Engler made a motion, seconded by Poag to purchase Case backhoe. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

Engler stated the other proposal is for a replacement tractor for the Mahindra, which has had repeated problems, and the warranty runs out in about 8 weeks. The replacement tractor proposal was for a John Deere tractor from Vanderburgh County that will come with a 36-month, 3600 total hours warranty from Hutson for \$101,453.66. Engler made a motion to purchase a replacement tractor, seconded by Gries, motion passed by 3-0 voice vote. Poag abstained.

Engler stated that we should approach Juncker to return this Mahindra tractor. Kahre made a motion, seconded by Engler to have Engler work with Mahindra and/or Juncker to return the Mahindra tractor which has continued problems. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote. Poag abstained.

3. Codification Draft- American Legal Publishing

Lowe stated that several items needed corrected and/or changed. Lowe advised there was an update from American Legal Publishing that they will be releasing a legal report to us in about 30 days that may help with the areas that need to be corrected.

New Business

Attorney Comments

No further comments

Board Members Comments

No further comments

Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe

Clerk-Treasurer

