

# Town of Darmstadt, Indiana

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

## Minutes of October 15th, 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.

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

### **Clerk-Treasurer's Report**

Mallory Lowe advised that tonight is our budget adoption meeting, which will decisively establish our tax revenues for the town funds for the upcoming year, as well as the bond payment revenue for the Old State land. This is crucial for making our two payments on the land for 2025. Lowe made it clear that the sewer department operates under a completely separate budget, which is not included in the budget we submit to the state. Additionally, Lowe advised that the sewer department does not require state approval and is not subject to budget cuts, as it receives absolutely no tax dollars since the sewer department is fully self-sufficient, relying exclusively on revenue generated from sewer payments.

Mallory reported that CenterPoint is still making mistakes with our 100 electric bills. The latest issue was a missing bill for the address 1731 BNH. After spending hours on the phone, emailing, and doing research, Mallory stated she discovered that CenterPoint completely changed the service address of one of our pump stations to a non-existent address: 399 W BNH. Additionally, CenterPoint still has accounts listed with outdated Rural Route addresses they have not corrected. Mallory Lowe advised that CenterPoint had 1731 BNH listed as Rural Route 5 Box 399B. Instead of correcting it to the actual mailing address, someone at CenterPoint mistakenly entered Box 399B into their system as the house number 399 BNH. Fortunately, Lowe managed to clarify the situation, and CenterPoint has confirmed that they corrected their error.

Lowe mentioned that she has been working with our software company, Keystone, to set up an autopay option for our residents. Keystone has provided a quote of \$2,390 for the setup fee. Lowe explained that she has been discussing the details with Parker from Keystone and has gained insight into the work and training that will be required of her, to integrate this system and with the treasury of Old National Bank. Mallory noted this will be another additional monthly workload on her, but she should be able to successfully offer this service to our town residents. Lowe asked the council if they would like to proceed with providing this autopay option. Mallory Lowe expressed her intention to move forward if the council agrees. Poag made a motion, seconded by Kahre, to purchase the autopay program add-on from our current Keystone Utility Software. The motion passed with a 4-0 voice vote.

Lowe informed the council that our AIM Roundtable meeting will take place in Boonville on Wednesday, October 23, at Quail Crossing Golf Club and that most of the council will be able to attend and has been registered.

### **Fire Dept Report**

Crystal Kahre read aloud the fire dept report submitted by Brandon Zimmer who was unable to attend meeting.

### **Sheriff's Report**

Sheriff Department report included that there were 14 business stops, 5 traffic enforcements, 62 extra patrols for Darmstadt, 11 traffic stops, 1 citation, written warnings and 6 incident reports.

## **Maintenance Dept Report**

Cecil Poag read aloud Aaron and Mick's Superintendent Maintenance reports. Aaron is still working with the GIS company to locate all our sewer lines in town more accurately and for mapping. The Septic tank inspections and pumping are going well. The heavy winds took a couple trees down on Wortman Road that the guys cleared off. Mick turned the heat on in the Old State House now that the weather has changed. All else is going well in the Street & Sewer Departments.

## **Old Business**

### 1. EWSU Mandate Charges Update

Josh Claybourn stated that some ideas were discussed during an executive session with council that he will continue to work on and keep the council informed.

### 2. Summer Sprinkling Credit/ Portable Meter program drafts

Cecil Poag stated the he met with Lowe, Moreland and Enlow to review options, issues and feasibility to legally be able to offer summer averaging and portable meter programs. Poag stated he will contact Keystone to see how the software program works for summer sprinkling averaging, so he will know how to write up the policy drafts. Poag will then get with Josh for the draft Ordinances required, then the council would have the facts and be able to consider new policies.

### 3. Ordinance Codification Legal Review

Lowe stated that all has been submitted to the publishing company and they are working to complete the final codification and then we will be able to link the ordinances on our website.

## **New Business**

### 1. Redistricting Ordinance O-2024-5

Engler made a motion, seconded by Poag to accept the redistricting ordinance to renew our town's same four districts for Darmstadt. Motion passed by a 4-0 voice vote.

### 2. Public 2025 Budget Hearing

Engler made a motion, seconded by Kahre to accept the 2025 Town Budget. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

### 3. Trinity LED Sign Variance Request

Josh Claybourn explained that the county didn't need council's approval however the council did not voice any issues with the new proposed digital signage from Trinity.

## **Attorney Comments**

No further comments

## **Board Members Comments**

Board President Eric Gries stated that Mike Wathen contacted him to discuss the remodeling work he is completing on a house he bought on Wortman Road. Mike Wathen wanted to express his thanks and appreciation to the superintendents and the Town Clerk Mallory Lowe for her support and guidance with his purchase and remodeling of property in Darmstadt.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe

Clerk-Treasurer

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