

**TOWN OF
DARMSTADT, INDIANA**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

**Minutes of
January 15th 2019**

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript.
Audio of this meeting is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

TOWN COUNCIL

Paul Freeman, President
Phil McElroy, Council Member
Aaron Kendall, Council Member

CLERK-TREASURER

Mallory Lowe
P. O. Box 20
Darmstadt, IN 47618-0020

Paul Freeman called the regular town meeting to order at 7:30pm. In attendance were President Paul Freeman, Clerk-Treasurer Mallory Lowe, Council Members Phil McElroy and Aaron Kendall. Also present were Superintendent Jeff Goerges, Assistant Superintendent Aaron Enlow and Attorney Jason Spindler.

McElroy made a motion, seconded by Lowe to appoint Paul Freeman as council president. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote.
McElroy made a motion, seconded by Lowe to appoint Aaron Kendall to the town council. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote.

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

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

In the clerk's office: December property tax revenue from the county very soon this month along with a couple sewer lien payments from last spring. The Indiana State Board of Accounts issued a state wide directive to all cities, counties and towns last month that we now must create another sub-fund called MVH restricted which will be used only for construction, reconstruction and preservation purposes of our town roads in the Motor Vehicle Highway fund. This was included in the House Enrolled Acts passed last fall. We receive MVH revenue from the state each month of about \$2,500. This new act requires us to put 50% of that revenue into this new MVH restricted fund. This fund must be listed separately on all state reports we submit and used only for roads not payroll.

I'm currently completing our Employee W2's and will have those out to everyone before end of month, also will submit our required 100R report to state, listing all public officials serving for the town, which is due by Jan 31st. I will continue to work on our Annual Report with is due end of February.

In the Utility Department: We will need to raise our Lien fee which we will address tonight. We received 2 paid liens from 2018 in our December tax settlement from the county.

Evansville Sewer has increased their fees they charge us. Our bill for 2,786,000 gallons, last month would have been \$26k, this month after the rate hike on us, Evansville charged us \$29,600 now. A rate hike of over \$3,000 a month more. This month will begin our 2019 sewer rate increase passed on from Evansville Water & Sewer. (\$20.83 per 1,000gals, \$11.98 electric, \$6.05 admin, \$104 family well, \$67.48 discounted well)

Vectren contractor called me on January 4th, they are replacing all the meters in Darmstadt to digital real-time meters which will enable us to look up sewer pump electric meters anytime to see usage and catch problems sooner.

In General Town Items: The Old National Bank only has the drive-thru open now until this Thursday. Our lease with Old National for the Darmstadt building ends January 31st. I spoke with our leasing agent, Lisa Raben last week, she said she has shown the bank to the library and they are considering, but it's a process to approve. There is still a bank that has also expressed an interest, but they haven't been able to get him through the property yet.

Old Business

1. New 2018-2019 Matching Road Grant projects update

McElroy noted that he sent in all grant info and we were awarded all our grants. Adryan Way, Jordan Lane, Shadow Bluff subdivision, Hillsdale road, Kahre Court, Ridge Knoll, Gilles Lane, Tibarand and also a few culvert replacements. McElroy noted the contractors had to be in by April 15th.

New Business

1. Center Creek Playground- Civitan Club

Barbara Steedman and Kathy Schapker attended from the Civitan Club. Barbara Steedman stated that the Civitan Club is wanting to raise money to make improvements again this year to the Center Creek Playground and is asking the Town of Darmstadt for a donation. Paul Freeman stated Darmstadt will continue to donate to Civitan's Center Creek Playground, as it has for years, he would like to a list in order of priority of what needs to be completed this year. Civitan Club is also arranging one of those Hacienda fundraisers for a day. Kate Potter, owner of American Honey Market in Darmstadt, also expressed interest in fundraising for the playground.

2. Update Darmstadt Sewer Department Lien Fee

Lowe explained that the county lien fees have increased to \$25 per recording and \$25 per release. Lowe noted that in turn, we need to raise our lien fee passed on to the customer to cover our costs. Lowe advised that we raise lien fee to \$60 to cover recording costs and postage. Council agreed. McElroy made a motion, seconded by Kendall, to raise our sewer lien fee to \$60, motion passed by 3-0 voice vote.

3. Update Paid Vacation Benefits for Employees

Paul Freeman noted that we will be increasing vacation benefits to full-time employees to 3 weeks paid vacation after 5 years and 4 weeks paid vacation after 10 years. McElroy made a motion, seconded by Kendall to increase paid vacation for full-time employees to 3 weeks after 5 years and 4 weeks after 10 years. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote.

4. Discussion of Erosion along Wortman Road

Jeff Goerges advised that there are some significant erosion problems at the bottom of the hill on Wortman road. Jeff noted it would take about \$6000 to correct the erosion problems on Wortman road. Relleke Excavating can perform the work.

5. Discussion of Trees along Boonville-New Harmony road

Jeff Goerges advised that the trees along BNH in the right of way are leaning over the road. The ditch needs to be moved back to improve drainage, but the trees are currently in the way. Jeff noted that a few trees need to be removed in order to repair the drainage in this area. Jeff has called Randy's Tree service to give us an estimate. Lowe asked if the residents could be notified before the trees are removed even though they are in easement.

Superintendent Report

Jeff said they received the new dump truck and dropped it off at Elper's Truck for the snow plow and spreader last week. Jeff noted that they put about 5 tons of rip rap in the ditch on BNH near Roger Bippus house. Jeff noted that a homeowner in Inglefield asked about some drainage problems she was having, Jeff stated he looked at it but it was on their personal property. Jeff advised they got 6 new pumps and floats.

Fire Chief Report

Fire department not present

Board member comments

Phil McElroy noted that Lowe had forwarded info to council that there is a proposed senate bill that may affect our sewer connection regulations. McElroy read aloud the proposed bill. Council will stay updated on this and call our state senators about it.

Aaron Kendall advised he is ready to help with what is needed.

Attorney comments

Spindler had no further comments.

Resident comments

Bruce Ungethiem thanked Darmstadt town board and especially Phil McElroy for preparing all the data and paperwork and submitting it to the state for the Community Crossings Grant. Public applauded.

Tom Small advised that he and some other residents are present at the meeting tonight to convey that they still strongly support the fight against the proposed apartment complex. Tom Small noted that the community has donated \$19,000 to help support this fight and wants to make sure council will continue the fight and that he believes the council should stagger their terms. President Paul Freeman replied that Darmstadt council continues to work with counsel on the proposed apartment complex just as it has for the last 5 years.

Carol Schlumpf noted that the dip on Martin Road is getting worse over the culvert. Schlumpf also noted that the town sign is getting beat up, looks bad and needs replaced.

Kate Potter noted that June 8th is Darmstadt Days. Potter asked how to get the community more involved. Lowe advised she will be happy to spread the word, post on website and social media to help. Potter will be promoting and hosting vendor booths in the shopping center parking lot again this year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe

Clerk-Treasurer


