

Town of Darmstadt, Indiana

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

Minutes of
Nov 8th 2022

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

TOWN COUNCIL

Paul Freeman, President
Ken Godeke, Council Member
Ray Engler, Council Member
Jay Sollman, Council Member

CLERK-TREASURER

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

Board president, Paul Freeman, called the town meeting to order at 7:32pm. In attendance were President Paul Freeman, Clerk-Treasurer Mallory Lowe, council members Ken Godeke, Ray Engler and Jay Sollman. Also present was Attorney Jason Spindler and Maintenance Dept Liaison Cecil Poag.

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

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

In the Town Clerk's office: Mallory Lowe stated completed our 2023 budget and after the vote last month I submitted the signed budget ordinance to the State on their Gateway system before the 5-day deadline. Lowe advised that we should expect the 1782 notice within a couple months letting us know if they will allow us to spend what we have asked to spend next year. Lowe stated that the town received \$21,178 in October in tax revenues. Lowe advised that next month we will need to pass the 2023 payroll ordinance before the end of year deadline.

In the Utility department: Lowe advised that she sent out 22 overdue letters for sewer accounts over 90 days. Lowe stated she collected \$57,972 in October in sewer payments. Lowe advised that we are receiving even more online payments now from customers compared to two years ago when we reviewed the accounts receivables payment options when about 25% of the town were paying their sewer bill online.

In General Town Items: Lowe advised that we received a software update from Keystone on our KeyUtility program which had some glitches for municipalities across the state. KeyUtility runs our sewer billing.

Old Business

1. ARPA (American Rescue Plan) Covid Grants Funds Allocation- Debbie Bennett-Stearsman

Freeman stated that we are coordinating a meeting with Debbie on December 13th at 6:30pm. Sollman stated that he would like to attain bids for several of the items that were on the project list so that we have specifics ready when we meet with Debbie. Freeman discussed options for the salt building. Cecil Poag discussed the current situation of the salt building and salt inventory and condition. Sollman made a motion, seconded by Engler for council members to receive more quotes for salt building options. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

Sollman asked where we were ADA compliant. Council discussed. Freeman also added that we could add the sewer manhole project to the ARPA discussion. Cecil Poag responded that he and maintenance have been reviewing the manholes and have considered repairing the worst one first to see what is involved and if it can be repaired ourselves. Council discussed.

2. Roof damage to Town Shop Building Update

Cecil Poag noted that the roof damage repair is complete. Lowe stated that the insurance company had been calling wanting a completion letter from the contractor so Lowe gave the insurance the contractors contact info directly.

3. Rip Rap on Martin Road

Cecil Poag stated that the riprap project has been completed on Martin Road.

4. Outsourcing for mowing town roads

Sollman asked Cecil Poag if they have a map they are working on. Cecil replied that yes they have a map but it was cumbersome to include it legibly all on one map sheet, but that yes we have a map. Discussion continued.

New Business

1. **Opioid Settlement Ordinances- Jason Spindler**

Spindler explained what the settlement from the government was about and recommended we have Debbie Bennett-Stearns handle the settlement for us. Council agreed.

2. **Sewer Ordinance Clarification of Municipal Responsibilities**

Spindler advised that he has reviewed our ordinances and have concluded that the tank along with everything to the house and inside the house is the homeowner's responsibility and the tank outlet out to the municipal sewer is the town's responsibility. A plumber, Brian Gross discussed the sewer system and ordinances with town attorney Jason Spindler and council. Jason Spindler asked Brian Gross if he had replaced any septic tanks when he worked here, Gross replied no, he did not. Discussion continued.

3. **Possible AutoPay for Resident Sewer Bills**

Sollman stated that Lowe advised we currently don't have an autopay feature or the ability to pay over the phone for the residents to pay their sewer bills. We have visited this before but may need to consider it again. Lowe advised a couple years ago we received an estimate from InvoiceCloud that would cost the town about \$150 a month and a \$3.95 fee per transaction fee to the customer. Sollman made a motion, seconded by Engler to move forward to attain an autopay option for our residents to pay their sewer bills. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

4. **Mediation Settlement Agreement**

Spindler explained the mediation settlement and recommended that the council approve the settlement agreement and sign it. Sollman made a motion, seconded by Godeke to approve settlement. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

Maintenance Dept Report

Cecil Poag advised that the roof had several shingles blown off at the Old State Road house during this last storm that needed repaired. Council approved to have it repaired. There were 41 locates and 20 service calls since the last meeting. We finished up Martin Rd and moved the rip rap from the road and put down 53's for a road edge. We dug up 115 BNH road inlet baffle and found a connection that had been made incorrectly. There was a hole knocked in the top of the tank, a pipe installed and a bag of concrete poured over it. The homeowner has corrected it. We have now inspected all of the culverts in town. There are two that need to be replaced. One in Kahre subdivision and one on Hoing Rd. The trucks have been completely serviced and are ready for whatever winter throws us. Upon completing more inspections, we now have only 6 houses that have not been inspected for sump pumps.

Fire Dept Report

Not present

Sheriff Report

Not present

Attorney comments

No further comments

Board Member comments

Ray Engler stated that now that the lawsuit is settled that he would like to council to work well, have a fresh start and get things accomplished. Freeman said ditto.

Resident comments

Carol Schlumpf asked what the status was on the backhoe. Cecil replied that the backhoe needs a new transmission.

Dennis Mullen of 2400 W BNH corner of BNH and St Joseph Ave asked if we could remove the old concrete mounds from the old street lights. Council agreed we would remove the concrete mounds.

Harold Grossman asked Spindler if the calibrations have been completed on the two mag meters. Spindler advised that Ryan Causey replied from EWSU that he was not sure the actual meter could be removed. Spindler will follow up.

The meeting adjourned 9:25pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe
Clerk-Treasurer

