

**TOWN OF  
DARMSTADT, INDIANA**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

**Minutes of  
December 10th 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  
Ken Godeke, Council Member  
Aaron Kendall, 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 and Phil McElroy. Also present was Assistant Superintendent Aaron Enlow and attorney Jason Spindler. Council member Ken Godeke was absent.

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. Kendall made a motion, seconded by McElroy to approve the accounts payable claims. Motion passed 3-0 voice vote.

**CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**In the clerk's office:** Ray Engler and I attended the Elected Officials conference in Evansville yesterday, it was very informative and we got to network with some other local officials. I've completed our Annual Workman's comp Audit from Bitco Insurance for Oct 2018-Oct 2019. Our tenants at the bank are to pay utility bills. However, since Jennifer & Brian Schuetter (our Bread & Butter tenants) have never had a Vectren account in Vanderburgh County. Vectren wants to charge them a \$1500 deposit. Brian Schuetter asked if we could just keep the Vectren bill in our name for a while and they reimburse us until they get a more established. McElroy made a motion, seconded by Kendall to let our tenants reimburse us for Vectren bills. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote. I've paid our Rural King/John Deere bill online since we received it in the mail one day before it was due. Same with most the Vectren bills, I paid them online since we received them 3 days before due date again. Council approved to pay bills online to avoid late charges. Our introductory rate from Spectrum has expired for the Clerk's office, I called last week to address it and they agreed to knock \$10 off but not anymore. We are still under the introductory rate for the Shop office. Council agreed that was fine. Our office clerk computer is over 7 years old now and freezing up quite a bit. Ray at Point Man Technology gave us a quote of \$1955.11 for a new commercial Dell computer setup along with battery backup. He will also transition all the programs and files included. McElroy made a motion, seconded by Kendall to purchase new computer. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote.

**In the Utility Department:** We received a call that 1220 W Wortman Road was bought by William Kane, this is a well account, so I have reactivated charges on it again. They have 3 or more occupants so will be paying full well charge. January will begin the new sewer rates and the 7% increase which mirrors the increase we will be receiving from EWSU. I've received 2 bounced checks in the last month. I will be certifying liens with the county next month, that means the sewer amount they owe, will be applied to the owner's property taxes for 2020.

**In General Town Items:** We renewed our annual bulk mailing permit at the post office.

**Old Business**

No old business

**New Business**

**1. Payroll Ordinance for 2020**

Freeman advised we have the payroll ordinance for 2020. McElroy made a motion, seconded by Kendall to accept the ordinance. McElroy made a motion, seconded by Kendall to forego the second reading. Ordinance passed by a 3-0 voice vote.

## **2. Assign Council Members to Solid Waste Board meetings and Building Code Meetings for 2020**

Freeman stated that presently he has been attending the Solid Waste Board and Building Code Meetings. Freeman advised he would like to appoint a council member to attend the 2020 Solid Waste Board meetings. Kendall stated if Ken Godeke doesn't want to do it that Kendall will. McElroy made a motion, seconded by Kendall to assign Paul Freeman to the Building Code meetings and Ken Godeke to the Solid Waste Board meetings. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote.

## **3. Update to Employee Handbook**

Freeman noted that McElroy has updated the Town Employee Handbook. McElroy went over a few things that were updated like performance appraisals and equal opportunity wording. McElroy stated that the health insurance allowance was changed that if an employee can get health insurance coverage from their spouse, that they would not get the health allowance payment from Darmstadt, except currently employed, who would be grandfathered in. McElroy made a motion to accept the updated handbook, seconded by Kendall, motion passed by 3-0 voice vote.

## **Superintendent Report**

Aaron stated that they uncovered some valves in front of Kahre Brothers that were over 6' deep. The sewer pump was installed at the new log cabin off of Darmstadt Road, but not ready to bill, Aaron Enlow stated they will let Lowe know when that property is ready to bill sewer. Aaron noted that they have the snow equipment ready for proposed snow coming next week.

## **Fire Dept Report**

Fire not present

## **Deputy Sheriff Report**

Deputy not present

## **Board member comments**

McElroy stated this was his last board meeting and he will continue to help with pending grants next year.

## **Attorney comments**

Attorney had no further comments

## **Resident comments**

Carol Schlumpf said thank you to Phil McElroy and for all his hard work over the years and especially with the town grants. Carol Schlumpf asked about the weed ordinance and if there are anything we can do about cars that have been parked for long period of time and the farm animals that her neighbors have inside the house. Freeman replied that yes, we have a weed ordinance that we can enforce if the grass in the front yard gets above 9". McElroy noted that she could contact the Sheriff department about the cars and animal control about farm animals in the house.

Kate Potter asked about sign ordinance, she mentioned she was asked by someone else about signage. Potter mentioned that signage has to go through Area Plan and then also Darmstadt. Freeman confirmed that is correct.

Angie Laurel introduced herself. She stated she is the owner of the new Pearl Girl shop in the shopping center and is excited to be in Darmstadt. McElroy welcomed her.

Tom Small asked if Darmstadt has considered having ACH set up for the Sewer bills where residents could have their sewer bill automatically deducted. Small also asked if the town has considered annexing the Schnucks area. Spindler replied that annexations are near impossible now with the new laws in place.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe  
Clerk-Treasurer

