

**TOWN OF
DARMSTADT, INDIANA**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

**Minutes of
April 13th 2021**

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

TOWN COUNCIL

Paul Freeman, President
Aaron Kendall, Council Member
Ken Godeke, Council Member
Ray Engler, 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, Ken Godeke and Ray Engler. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Goerges, Aaron Enlow, Mick Moreland and Attorney Jason Spindler.

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

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Town Business: Mallory Lowe advised, that the Federal Government is sending \$1.9 trillion dollars from an economic stimulus bill passed by Congress to local governments for the American Rescue Plan. Darmstadt will be receiving about \$300,000 of it sometime around May. I will be working with OCRA and the State Board of Accounts on this disbursement. We had an AIM zoom meeting about it today at 1pm along with many other towns in Indiana then, we have another zoom meeting with State Board of Accounts tomorrow to find out how we will be allowed to use these funds. We will be passing a resolution on it tonight. I continue to work with Andy Zeller and Debbie Bennett on the Federal Grant "Covid- Phase 3 for Small Businesses". All had been submitted and we await to hear from the Federal Government.

I also followed up with Shawn Brenner at INDOT in Vincennes on our Community Crossings Grant Jeff submitted. CCMG is the annual State grant to repave our town roads. Jeff and Paul took over this grant submission last year from Phil McElroy and I. INDOT said we should hear something very soon.

In the Utility Department: I mailed out sewer bills the last week of March with a second message noting that residents filling pools must call maintenance department first for new procedures, I also circled and highlighted that message on all 532 bills before mailing them out. I personally texted about 15 residents with pools, to give them a heads up.

General Town Items: I attended the Indiana Annual Institute conference. The event was from 8am to 5pm every day for 4 days with over 26 classes. I completed 32 hours of online workshops in 4 days, so I was successful in meeting the required officials training credits. Town Officials were required to stay logged on for each workshop and take tests at the end of each. The Institute had over 500 clerks, mayors and council members in attendance from towns all over the state. There were several guest speakers from the federal government, the IRS, the Indiana State house, the State Board of Accounts, the Walkerton Police Department, Reedy Financial Group, Barnes and Thornburg, New Focus HR which is our HR firm and Baker Tilly. Several Veteran Town Clerks also hosted many of these classes.

This year's classes covered things from how to effectively run a utility department, to public safety, how to deal with active shooters, cyber security, covid safety, employee theft of equipment, employee theft of time clock hours, grant allocations, ghost council members, federal bonds, annexations, and 2020 census data and how it affects our tax revenue. The Walkerton, Indiana police department put on the active shooter seminar and explained that violence is an increasing threat in local government and local government positions are now considered high risk. They talked about how to handle aggression from town residents, protests, physical confrontations and what to do when faced with threats from residents and coworkers. You may not think those things happen in Darmstadt, that particular session did remind me when we had a resident attack our Town Hall building with an Axe, that happened May of 2007. It was shortly after we raised the sewer rates. That attack made the Evansville Courier and it was never solved.

In Town Events: We had Darmstadt cleanup day on March 20th organized by Eric Gries. Eric was in Charge of the Event. He volunteered his time, equipment and even hauled all the trash, in his trailer, to the landfill for us. Everything seemed to go very well and we want to thank Eric for organizing it. We were lucky to have nice weather that day. We also want to thank Kate Potter from American Honey and thank Trinity Church for providing the lunch. We had a record breaking 42 volunteers this year compared to 14 last year. It was a big success. Last Saturday was the Grand Opening of a new Darmstadt Business, Lula Mae's Home Décor store which is next to the post office. So please visit and support them. Tomorrow morning at 8am is our State Board of Accounts zoom meeting on the American Rescue Plan. Thursday at 1pm is the IDEM Road grants webinar. May 4th is our LTAP Road surfacing webinar through Purdue. May 18 is the Indiana Clerk-Treasurer's League School and Finally, May 20th is the State Board of Accounts Budget Workshop for the 2022 Budget season which will start in June.

Old Business

1. Road Repaving Bid Openings-2021 Community Crossing Grant

Jason Spindler opened the road repaving bids, first one was from Metzger. Metzger's bid was for \$222,365. The second bid was from JH Rudolph for \$249,912. Spindler read the breakdown on all 3 roads. Paul Freeman stated we will take these under advisement and we will await award of the community crossings grant. Freeman noted after we compare the bids, we should be able to vote on this by next month.

2. Update on 2021 Community Crossings Matching Grant

Jeff Goerges noted that we are still awaiting to hear about awards.

3. Bank Building-Economic Development Submissions-vote

Jason Spindler advised that after advertisement, we only received one submission to purchase the bank building. Spindler read aloud the submission from Kate Potter which included the bid of \$152,500 for the average of the two appraisals we previously paid to have done. Godeke added that he thinks Kate Potter is a very good business person and has proven herself with her current Darmstadt business. Kendall added he originally wanted to lease it but will go with selling it to Kate Potter. Ray Engler stated he couldn't think of a better person for the building to go to. Paul Freeman stated that this building was purchased a few years ago with the only original council members still here of himself, Mallory Lowe and attorney Jason Spindler on the board. Freeman noted that it's sat empty for awhile and we have had no other interest, he does not want to see it sit empty. Freeman stated that he would like to make sure the town will have the first right to purchase if Kate Potter chooses to sell it in the future. Jason Spindler asked for a motion to sell the building to Kate Potter for \$152,500 with a purchase right of refusal indefinitely. Godeke made a motion, seconded by Kendall to sell the bank building, motion passed with a 4-0 voice vote.

4. Update on 2021 Federal Covid Phase III Business Grant

Lowe stated that we are still awaiting to hear from Federal government for awards.

5. Update on Sump Pump & Illegal Connections Inspections

Jeff Goerges noted that he has done a few inspections lately and wrote one violation. Freeman asked how many inspections have been completed, Jeff stated about 200 have been completed out of 540 in the last year.

New Business

1. American Rescue Plan Act 2021 Resolution R-2021-2

Jason Spindler advised that we need this resolution to be able to use the ARP money. Spindler read aloud the uses that will be allowed for the American Rescue Plan.

Engler made a motion, seconded by Kendall to accept the Resolution, motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

Superintendent Report

Jeff Goerges stated that they have been using a sign out sheet for the portable meters. Jeff noted that they have had 24 service calls. Jeff advised that he continues to get bids for road striping. Jeff stated that we can't put thermoplastic over paint. His estimates for all roads would be \$44,000 for the high reflectivity paint. Jeff noted that Vectren wants to charge us over \$2,000 to hook a new service up for sewer pump. Jeff explained that Vectren is now Center Point and they are saying that our pump stations do not make them enough money to continue to install for free and will start charging for electric installations.

Tim Metzger advised that the thermoplastic could be added to the bids when we do repaving. Metzger added that the thermoplastic lifespan is about 3 times as long as paint.

Fire Dept Report

Not in attendance

Deputy Sheriff Report

Chief Noah Robinson explained that he was attending as a private citizen and if the council had any questions about the VCSO report he sent to Mallory Lowe for Darmstadt.

Board member comments

Ray Engler advised that the roads at Inglefield and Railroad Street are deteriorating more from the truck damage. Spindler stated he will follow up with the county attorney about that issue. Kendall advised he would call Shoulders tomorrow.

Kendall stated that he had someone ask him if it was illegal for the advertisement newspapers to be thrown on properties. Engler added that he agreed it was annoying. Noah Robinson stated that if we leave the ad with him he will follow up with it.

Paul Freeman stated that he will be having a private prom party in his barn on Steinkuhl Lane.

Attorney comments

Jason Spindler had no further comments.

Resident comments

Boy Scout Knea stated that he is a scout with troop 350 at Bluegrass. Joshua stated he would like to start a 5k race on the roads from gate 2 at the 4H Center along Boonville-New Harmony Road from 8am to 9:30am. Joshua noted he would ask the Sheriff's department to provide patrols for the roads and only have the roads open to local traffic during this time. The marathon would start at Trinity go to the 4H and then back to Trinity along Boonville-New Harmony. Noah Robinson noted that there is a road closure request form at the Vanderburgh County Sheriff website. Noah Robinson advised that the Boy Scouts would need to have insurance in place for the event. Lowe added that we would need to make an exception to consider since we prevented the Southern Indiana Classic Marathon.

Tom Small stated that the last time a race was in town it caused a fiasco and he believe there is an ordinance in place against them.

Karen Owens added she thought it would cause additional traffic problems since it will be Darmstadt Day and vendors will be setting up.

Mark Stocker added that he wanted to congratulate Kate Potter on the purchase of the bank building and knows she will do wonderful things for Darmstadt like she has already.

Eric Gries asked if council has considered taking out any of the rumble strips on Boonville-New Harmony road. Freeman advised that those rumble strips were put in at the request of MPO. Freeman said Mallory Lowe could contact MPO for their recommendations. Eric Gries also asked if he could have the fallen tree on Wortman road. Jeff noted that it was on private property and would be up to the homeowner.

Carol Schlumpf asked Ray Engler if there has been any changes at Azteca on the odor problem. Ray said same, no new news. Carol also asked how long our repaving bids are good for due to the oil prices changing. Metzger replied 30 days. Carol asked Noah Robinson if the ATV's are legal in town. Robinson replied all 4 wheelers, ATVS and side by sides are NOT legal within the Darmstadt town limits. Carol added that there are landscape trucks and trailers speeding through town.

Kate Potter stated that Darmstadt Day is Saturday, June 5th will have lots of vendors, bouncy houses and food trucks.

The meeting adjourned 8:41 pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe
Clerk-Treasurer

