

**TOWN OF
DARMSTADT, INDIANA**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

**Minutes of
April 9th 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
Ken Godeke, Council Member

CLERK-TREASURER

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

Board president, Paul Freeman, called the regular town meeting to order at 7:30pm. In attendance were President Paul Freeman, Clerk-Treasurer Mallory Lowe, council member Aaron Kendall and newly appointed council member Ken Godeke. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Goerges and Attorney Jason Spindler. Council Member Phil McElroy was absent.

Freeman made a motion, seconded by Kendall to appoint Ken Godeke to the town council. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote. Attorney Jason Spindler issued to Oath of Office to Ken Godeke. Godeke will represent district 4. Kendall made a motion, seconded by Godeke to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed 3-0 voice vote. Kendall made a motion, seconded by Godeke to approve last month's financial report. Motion passed 3-0 voice vote. Kendall made a motion, seconded by Godeke to approve the accounts payable claims. Motion passed 3-0 voice vote.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

In the clerk's office: I've been working with Linda Freeman from the Surveyor's office and Connie Carrier with Vanderburgh Voter Registration office the last couple months to update and correct the records in the voter's registration to reflect Darmstadt as a town. Ever since I took this position, I've been trying to get our information corrected in the other agencies to recognize Darmstadt as a town, which should have been done back in 1973 when we became one. Our addresses still say Evansville on the mailing addresses, property deeds and assessments which causes much confusion and wasted time researching property locations with utilities and other government agencies. To no surprise when I called to ask about our election forms, Connie in the voter's registration office said she didn't realize we were even a town and she's been doing that job for several years. Anyway, to make a long story short, the County voter's registration office has recognized their errors and is currently working on correcting and updating our data for the Town of Darmstadt in their records and on the maps. If voter's registration updates and corrects our records then hopefully the Assessor's office will follow suit and so on. Right now, it is near impossible for any utility company, like Indiana Underground or Evansville Water, etc to pinpoint if a property is in the Darmstadt town limits or in the county.

I completed uploading all our newly required reports to the new State Gateway audit program. They are now asking for all bank statements, meeting minutes, council members and financial reports to be submitted electronically every month in addition to year end. They wanted all the towns and cities to upload this info going back to Jan of 2018, so after a couple weeks, we finally completed this project and it's up to date.

We paid maintenance their annual Retirement Allowance on April 1st. We also started paying maintenance out of Sewer fund now, since we split the maintenance salaries 1/4 of year out of MVH fund and 3/4 of year out of sewer fund. The new MVH Restricted fund requirements are going to make paying maintenance salary out of MVH a little tight. We may need to review this come budget time. The new MVH Restricted Fund has been setup in our Keystone software and has proven to be quite a headache and makes posting road revenue twice as long. The State's new requirement is for all towns to divide each MVH revenue check we receive and put 50% in a Restricted fund and 50% in MVH regular fund. The restricted can only be used on road improvements. A lot of clerk's are in an uproar about this new process and how it's going to affect payroll and grant projects. The Local Road & Street Fund has already been in place for many years and is already exclusively only to be used for road improvements, so this additional restricted fund seems unnecessary. In response to feedback, The State House is reviewing this to come up with a better approach.

In the Utility Department: We had a customer who failed to report they had gone from well water to city water. I plan to credit their account for the difference in usage and our standard is to go back 90 days, the homeowners agreed that was fair. So their account will be credited the 90 day difference which was \$166.64 and they will be billed as a metered customer going forward. I spoke to Aaron this morning and we also discussed that we should start sending a welcome letter to all new residents which will include the flyer we made up explaining the sewer system and not to flush wet wipes. Aaron said the sewer call they had yesterday had a sewer pump full of wipes and it was a new resident that had moved in a couple months ago.

We had a new house bill pass in Indy concerning municipal sewer liens with more requirements and new 20 days notice in addition to the previous 90 days notice. Shouldn't be a problem, I'll do my best to keep up with these new requirements. I'm currently

sending notice letters to all delinquent accounts every month now instead of quarterly, same time I send sewer bills. I send out 538 sewer bills each month and about 25 delinquent letters.

In General Town Items: We still have cable laying outside the shop from the internet installation. I contacted our agent today to get that buried and completed so we can mow the property.

Our next town roundtable will be this Thursday, April 11th at the Golf Club in Boonville.

Darmstadt Clean Up day has been rescheduled to THIS Saturday April 13th for better weather.

There are several events going on at the 4H Center.

The Annual Darmstadt Day will be Saturday June 8th.

Old Business

1. New 2018-2019 Matching Road Grant projects update

Paul Freeman stated the projects are scheduled. We are still awaiting the grant money from INDOT.

2. Update of Trees along Boonville-New Harmony Road

Jeff stated that this project is complete now. Randy's tree service took down all the trees and Relleke finished all the ditch work.

3. Old National Bank Building

Kendall said there was no new news from our leasing agent.

New Business

1. 4H Playground

Ken Godeke noted that a committee for the playground at the 4h Center has been formed. Godeke stated that there is a culvert pipe collapsing underneath the playground that will need to be replaced. So unfortunately the playground is going to have to be taken out and hopefully put back in.

2. Unified building codes update

Paul Freeman noted that in response to the apartment complex lawsuit, Vanderburgh county is hiring a firm to update our unified building codes for Vanderburgh county and Darmstadt. Freeman explained that they will develop overlays for each entity and Darmstadt will have it's own overlay. This will force all other entities to follow and respect the ordinances we have in place specifying land use, drainage, etc and finally recognize Darmstadt as a town.

3. Labor Rate Ordinance for work that is not town responsibility

Paul Freeman stated that we need to update our 1991-2 Ordinance pertaining to this subject. Freeman proposed we increase the rate to \$75 per hour per person, \$112 for weekends and \$150 for holidays. Freeman noted this is standard construction labor costs. Kendall proposed that the rates be much higher for this kind of work. Jason Spindler will go over the ordinance and rewrite it. Kendall and Freeman agreed to table the issue to discuss further.

Superintendent Report

Jeff stated they had 5 sewer calls this month and 11 sewer calls last month. They have been closing roads for roadwork and still having traffic issues of people speeding and cutting through the road closure signs. Jeff noted that they received inmates for trash pick up a couple days last week. They picked up most the trash along all the roads for both days and had several bags full. Jeff stated they had a couple trees come down across the roads in all the storms.

Fire Chief Report

Fire department not present

Deputy Sheriff Report

Deputy Lehmann introduced himself, he is the new officer assigned to Darmstadt. He is anxious to help us with speeders and will set up a few hot spots to give a presence to drivers that they need to slow down.

Board member comments

Ken Godeke noted he is pleased to join the board. Council welcomed him and thanked him for joining.

Aaron Kendall advised that he would like to have more time to strategize over the lawsuit. Jason Spindler agreed that we should do it in an executive session and will get that scheduled.

Attorney comments

Spindler stated that he has looked into the requirements to add a council seat which would require a resolution and an ordinance and a town wide election to expand to a 5th spot. Council decided to forego adding a 5th spot for now and just stagger the terms of the 4 current seats. Jason will work on the required paperwork for staggered terms.

Resident comments

Joann Croce mentioned she would like town residents to state their name when speaking at the meeting so we all know who they are. Council agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe

Clerk-Treasurer


