

# Town of Darmstadt, Indiana

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

Minutes of  
July 18th 2022

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

## TOWN COUNCIL

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

## CLERK-TREASURER

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

## SPECIAL MEETING

Town Attorney Jason Spindler called the town meeting to order at 7pm. In attendance were President Paul Freeman, Clerk-Treasurer Mallory Lowe, council members Ray Engler, Ken Godeke and Jay Sollman. Also present was Darmstadt Attorney Jason Spindler.

### Mowing Tractor

Paul Freeman stated that maintenance compiled a specific list for what is required for a mowing tractor for the town roads and sent it out in an email to the council members so that we can make proper comparisons and quotes. Jay Sollman mentioned he liked the email that Aaron Enlow sent which allowed us to better understand the needs.

Paul Freeman stated that he and Jay Sollman met with Bob Niemeier of Niemeier Excavating. Paul stated that Bob Niemeier does contract mowing work for Vanderburgh County.

Ray Engler stated he was all for contracting with a road side mowing company if Paul has already found someone who will provide a quote and can mow all the town roads.

Paul Freeman stated that Vanderburgh County Garage gets new mowing tractors every 3 years.

Eric Gries advised that the mid mount tractor would be the safest bet for mowing and the chassis would require at least a 6000 series.

Paul Freeman stated that he spoke to Scot Wischer and Scot told him that Ben Niemeier has a contract with the county to mow half the ditches in the county.

Ray Engler advised that we need to move along on this discussion as it has already been several months if not years. Jay Sollman agreed.

Ken Godeke stated that we should look at purchasing another used tractor again. Ken stated that its just like when we decided not to look at contracting out the town maintenance positions. We won't know until we get the quotes. Jay stated let's get this moving and get more quotes.

There was much discussion as to what we should receive quotes on and if it should be exactly what our maintenance dept does now with two passes on each side of the road or if we should just get quotes on one pass instead.

There was also discussion if we should start doing our own tree work or continue to contract that out each year.

Ken made a motion, seconded by Jay for council to get more quotes by the next meeting, this time for a contractor to mow all the town roads. Motion passed by 3-1 voice vote.

Paul Freeman stated that if the maintenance guys would like to attend Ivy Tech or some trade school to earn more certifications in work related topics, that the town would pay for their schooling.

Jason Spindler had Debbie Bennett-Stearsman on speaker phone during the meeting and asked Debbie if the ADA required changes to the shop garage could be used with ARPA money. Debbie replied yes it could.

Debbie stated that the ARPA money must be obligated by the end of 2024 and spent by end of 2026.

Mallory Lowe mentioned that we should obligate some of the ARPA funds for a new Salt Building which has been deteriorating badly over the past several years. Jay Sollman agreed.

Paul Freeman asked Debbie if the ARPA funds could be used for a new Salt Building, Debbie replied yes it can.

Jason Spindler asked Debbie if the ARPA funds could be used for paying contractors to mow the roads, Debbie said yes it can be used for contractors.

Cecil Poag advised that the ARPA money will not last forever and may not be well used for a contractor since the money will eventually run out and we will end up having to pay out of our budget.

Cecil Poag reminded the council that a purchase of a tractor out of the ARPA funds doesn't cost the town anything for the purchase. The tractor will be an asset for the town, plus when we sell the tractor, the money will be a revenue for the town that will be deposited directly into the town's general fund. This makes much better financial sense. Lowe agreed.

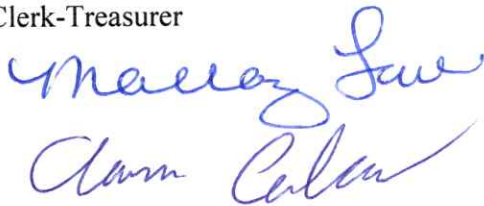
Debbie Bennett-Stearsman stated that we could have everyone prioritize a list of what is needed for using Darmstadt's Federal Covid Relief ARPA funds. Debbie Bennett-Stearsman stated that everyone compile what they think the top 5 town needs are and email the lists to her. Debbie stated she can then compile the results from everyone, officials, employees, and residents for us. Lowe agreed that is a great idea. Everyone is to get their top 5 needs together and email them to her.

The meeting adjourned 8:19pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe

Clerk-Treasurer



Mallory Lowe  
Dawn Colton