

**TOWN OF
DARMSTADT, INDIANA**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

**Minutes of
September 8th 2020**

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 and attorney Jason Spindler.

Kendall made a motion, seconded by Engler to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote. Godeke 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 Godeke to approve the accounts payable claims. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

I attended our budget meeting with Robert Norris from the State Dept of Local Government Finance on August 14th via internet. We went over all of our numbers and expected revenues for next year, he said all looked good. I've advertised our budget as required for tonight's public hearing and then our budget adoption will next month. I've got everything entered into Gateway now just waiting to submit after our adoption meeting. Gateway finally seems to be working correctly now.

In the Utility Department: I had our keystone software company update us with our new sewer rates and applied the new rates on the bills I printed and mailed out at the end of August. Also went through our customer list and applied the \$20 credits for completed inspections that Jeff had recorded on our spreadsheet, at that time there were 94 credits to apply. We had one sewer electric meter at 13000 N St Joseph Ave that jumped from \$15 to over \$200 on our Vectren bill. Jeff said it was a broken flange and hose, they repaired it. So, I expect that bill will be back down to normal next month. We had 5 homes change ownership last month.

In General Town Items: I've been going and checking on the Old State House about once a week, all looks good inside and out so far. Guys are keeping it mowed nicely.

As you know, I've contacted our tenants in the bank building about their overdue balances to get them caught up on the rent, electric, water & sewer. Jennifer Schuetter replied they would pay everything on Sept 10th. The grass was overgrown this weekend, Russ brought it to my attention, so I asked him to please get it mowed as soon as he could for us and he took care of it the very next day. Looked much better. I went out yesterday to inspect the grounds, there were quite a few weeds in the landscaping so I asked Russ to have that taken care of also, along with trimming the shrubs. Russ noted that when he went to mow, apparently the tenants finally had been out and pushed mowed the property, but it looked pretty bad and he had to go back over it all for it to look decent.

Lastly our very own Darmstadt Farm Market, Riemann's Farm made the front page of the Gibson County Star Times.

Old Business

1. 2021 Budget Public Hearing

Lowe presented the full 2021 Budget Report she prepared along with proposed revenues, property tax levies and the new debt service fund for the Old State Road property. Lowe stated this was the public budget hearing and if any of the public would like to speak or have questions about the budget. There were no public comments concerning the budget. With no comments Godeke made a motion, seconded by Kendall to close the public hearing for budget.

2. Sewer Pump Inspections/Outflow Update

Jeff noted that they have completed several sewer inspections. He stated he is now down to most the residents who work during the day, so they may need to work a couple Saturdays to complete inspections.

3. Bank Building Lease/Advertising

Lowe stated that we need to prepare to list the property because our current tenants lease ends this month. Lowe has managed the property for the last year with the current tenants which included rent in addition to utility reimbursements for electric, water & sewer. Godeke made a motion seconded by Kendall for the real estate agent, Kyle Bernhardt to list the property. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

4. Update on Railroad Street/Repairs

Engler noted he is still waiting for more info on the situation of semi's using that road.

5. Update on Repairs for St Joseph Ave Trash Truck Accident

Freeman stated that we did get a settlement of \$9,500 to make road repairs. Total cost for repairs will be \$16,000 from Jerry David Enterprises. Freeman noted we will widen the shoulder where the road drops off. Kendall made a motion seconded by Godeke to accept offer and begin on repairs. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

New Business

No new business

Superintendent Report

Jeff Goerges stated that they have been working on culverts and noted that Mallory did some research on who is responsible for culvert replacements. Mallory has the ordinance and Bridge Funding information from the county showing that the County is responsible for all and any culverts in the county. Any culvert where water runs under the road, no matter the size is considered a bridge and revenues are to be used from the Vanderburgh County bridge fund to make those repairs and replacements. Lowe noted that we need to contact the Evansville Superintendent and Vanderburgh County to find out the proper procedure to put in culvert replacement requests to the County. Jeff noted that he would like to request that we purchase a stump grinder for \$5400. Kendall made a motion, seconded by Godeke to purchase a stump grinder for \$5400. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

Fire Dept Report

Brandon Zimmer reported there were 8 runs in Darmstadt in July and 11 in August and 85% of the runs are ambulance runs. Response time was 5 minutes and 39 seconds. Station is on lockdown so that is why doors have been down.

Deputy Sheriff Report

Not present

Board member comments

Ray Engler mentioned he received an email from Jeff Hatfield about the lagoon changes at Azteca. Ray noted that Jason Spindler is reviewing the documents to see if this will be a good or bad change concerning the bad smell coming from the Azteca Plant. Jason Spindler suggested that we set a dollar amount to engage engineers. Engler made a motion seconded by Godeke to engage Commonwealth Engineers up to \$2500 to review and research the documents and proposed changes at Azteca.

Attorney comments No further comments

Resident comments

Eric Gries asked if we could be reimbursed for previous culvert replacements by the county. Eric Gries also asked if the pump station behind his Dad's house was alright. Jeff replied all was good.

Kate Potter from American Honey noted her store has been nominated for Best Boutique. Lowe noted that we have been sharing the link on the Town facebook page encouraging everyone to vote and support local. Kate also added that the tractor show was very successful and she will try to make it an annual Darmstadt Event.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe
Clerk-Treasurer

