

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall
February 25, 2019

Council Present – Jeff Lipinski, Don Parvin, Rob Hewitt, and Pat Reel.
Corbin King, the town’s attorney was also present.

Jeff Lipinski opened the meeting.

Jeff Lipinski gave prayer, and Pat Reel led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pat Sipes and her family (her two daughters and their husbands, Barbie and Ron Runyon and Kathy and Jeremy Polk) were at the meeting. She was presented recognized as 2018 recipient of the Outstanding Community Service Award. Her name was added to the plaque that is at the Russiaville Town Hall. Everyone gave her a round of applause and congratulated her. Jeff Lipinski asked Pat how many years she ran the Russiaville Western Days festival. Pat said 13 years. Jeff jokingly said that Donnie was thinking of putting a round a bout in her name by the post office.

Pat Sipes said that she was shocked when she found out about this. She has always enjoyed everything she has done for the community, and everything her community has done for her in the way of the food pantry. It is really amazing to her what the community does for our people. She added it was really hard giving up the festival when she did, but she knew it was time. Megan Reel asked how long she had done the food pantry now. Pat replied, she had done it since 2011.

Minutes from last meeting were approved.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable left word that he had no new business.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No one present to report.

TIF Board – Nothing new.

Russiaville Historical Society – Jan Koloszar said she had nothing new to report. They are still working toward an end.

Jeff Lipinski asked Jan where Kent Milburn (Jan's brother) was tonight. She said she was not sure.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby said they were looking into getting estimates for a deep cleaning on the Community Center. They have one and are waiting on a few more before they report. They are also looking into estimates for painting the inside of the Community Center. Jill also said they were looking into better baffles for the sound deadening. From what she is reading, there is not the right stuff in them to work properly. Pat Reel said it looks like pillow stuffing. Jill agreed. Since we already have the frame, we may be able to do it ourselves. Jill said Community Day (when the seniors from Western come) this year will be May 9th, with a rain date of May 10th. If there are any projects that we can think of that need done, let Jill know.

Jill said there is also an eagle scout that wants to do a project. Rick Homkes and herself will meet with him tomorrow.

Don Parvin said, on the baffles for the Community Center, they had Dave Kieser look into this about a year ago, and he said the baffles would have to go from the floor to the ceiling to work properly for that building. Jill said ok. The ones she had priced online were the same size as the ones we have now and were really pricey. Don agreed.

Rick Homkes said the final report will be going in for the "Feed a Bee Grant" in a couple of days. They have one interpretive panel that will go in at springtime. This grant will be closed very soon.

The "Signage & Artwork Grant" is coming up very soon. The first purchase will probably be tree species markers. This will progress after the trail is completed in the spring.

Megan Reel said on the matter of Community Day, people should have the seniors clean out their garages or whatever and get it out to the curb as the Spring big trash clean-up is May 11th. Jill said yes that worked out very well this year.

Summer Fest – no one present.

Streets & Wastewater – A written report was given. Mike Collins was present and said they had been working on getting the hot box cleaned out to give back to the county.

Rob Hewitt asked what was going on with the Fourth Street lift station. Mike said Mr. Hale had been cutting through there to get to his house and the ground had been so wet and soft it broke the pipe under the ground. They are waiting on the weather and ground to get more fit, and then they will dig down to fix it.

Pat Reel asked if they had been looking into getting pricing on any mowers. Mike said he was not sure. Megan Reel said she asked Craig about it earlier that day and he was waiting on some estimates from a couple of places.

Rob Hewitt asked Mike Collins if Merrell Bros had pulled out of the sludge digester. Mike said yes until the sludge tree froze up.

Pat Reel asked about their plows and salt spreaders, if everything was ok with them. Mike said they were still trying to get Craig's plow to seal up, but they have a back up plow so they were ok.

Marshal's Dept – A written report was given. Randy Vannatter was present and stated that this would be the first Sunday in March coming up and they would normally set off the tornado siren to test them. This Sunday is supposed to be a high of 16 degrees, so they will not be doing it until the weather is warmer.

Pat Reel said he tested the repeater the other night to make sure it was ok.

Jill Newby said that Carl Swan got the employee of the month at Western as the liaison officer. Jeff Lipinski said that was good to know, very cool.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel said if they would notice on the fund report, there is a negative \$15,345.88. She stated this amount would come out of the New London account. It actually did come out of the New London account for the bond payments, it was just not done on the computer correctly. She is going to fix it.

Jeff Lipinski asked Megan how much of Craig's salary comes out of Wastewater. Megan replied, all of it comes out of there. Jeff also asked about benefits, Megan said all of his health insurance comes out of wastewater. Jeff asked how much of Megan's and Mike's comes out of wastewater. Megan said 50% of her salary comes from wastewater and \$1.00 an hour comes out of New London. Mike's is 75% out of wastewater, and ½ of his health insurance comes out of wastewater.

Megan Reel said that Craig was notified we had an issue with the Indiana Dept. of Revenue when we were awarded the money for the Community Crossings grant. The issue was that we had not filed a URT-1 (Utility Receipt Tax) for 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. Megan said that Pat helped her go back through and fill out the correct forms with the correct amounts for these years, and in the end, we ended up owing \$2,157.46. After talking to the IDOR they told her to file the one for 2015 as a final, since we sold the water in 2015, and would no longer need to file a URT-1.

Megan also talked to SBOA and asked if the \$2,157.46 could be paid out of the Town Maintenance and Improvement Fund (230) that was made last year as this is where all the money from the water fund was put when it was closed out. SBOA said yes that would be fine and make the most sense.

Dave Kieser – They are still working on the specifications for the sidewalk and lighting grant. Jeff Lipinski asked what the timeline was on this. Dave said at the next meeting he would bring several different types of lighting for us to look at, and get it out this year for bid and get it done. Jeff Lipinski said he did like the new lights that Mayor Goodnight put on Philips street in Kokomo.

Mr. Kieser said we had a bid opening on January 31st for the Community Crossings grant (roads). There were 6 bidders. Baumgartner out of Noblesville, IN had the low bid at \$153,004.00. Mr. Kieser reviewed the packet that Baumgartner's submitted, and called several of their references. He said that Davidson Excavating said they use Baumgartner's for about 90% of their paving, and gave them raving reviews. He also talked to the engineer from Thorntown, they said they have done a nice job over there and have a good reputation as well.

Rob Hewitt asked Don Parvin about some work Baumgartner's had done in the past for us that there were issues with. Don said yes there were but it was corrected. Mr. Kieser said that it is his recommendation to accept the bid from Baumgartner & Company.

Don Parvin made a motion to accept the bid from Baumgartner and Company in the amount of \$153,004.00 for the 2019 paving. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, and Rob voting for passage.

Dave said he and Craig Thompson would keep in contact through this project.

Pat Reel said that he had asked Dave Kieser to look into some sort of energy efficiency grant for the Town Hall and Maintenance building out behind. The bills are getting higher and higher, and he thought there may be something we could do to remedy it.

Dave Kieser said he did look into this and said that the Trump administration has made energy efficiency a pretty high priority. It is called the Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants. We qualify since we have less than 50,000 people, and we are rural. Jeff Lipinski asked how we are going to get this in. Dave said we would just have to work diligently and get the application together and get it in. We can do door, window, heating/ac, insulation, etc. You can get up to \$250,000.00. There is a grant and there is a loan program at 2% interest over 40 years attached to this so there would be no match of grant funds.

Dave said he recommends we get an application in and see what they offer us, we don't have to take it.

Jeff Lipinski asked if we could include the Police Station in this. Dave said absolutely, we could include anything to do with this complex.

Pat Reel made a motion that we move forward to see what we can do with this grant. Rob Hewitt seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Rob, and Don voting for passage.

NL Grant – Ethel Morgan was present and said the weather had not been very good so not much progression on the project lately. Ethel had with her pay application #3 for January from Davidson Excavating in the amount of \$25,053.41 to be paid by the grant. All the pipe was finished in January, and in February they put in a manhole and 5 structures.

Ethel also gave Megan an invoice from Hometown Engineering for \$2,820.00 for January. Ethel will give this to Colleen at Mendenhall to be submitted.

Rob Hewitt made a motion to accept the pay vouchers as presented. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Rob, Pat, and Don voting for passage.

Bart Shepherd is present and lives at 2673 S. 750 W. He is here to talk about the flooding issues he has experienced since the sewer line has been put in. He has never had water sit in this spot before. He talked to Diane Trobaugh at the county office who got him in touch with Ethel Morgan and Jeff Davidson. He said he thought Davidson's were going to do some exploratory on this, but was

unaware of the findings. Mr. Davidson was present at the meeting and stated they had dug where Mark said the tile came through, they went 10 feet both directions and a foot and a half below the line, and found nothing. The plans show the tile being deeper than where they put in the new line. He is not saying it couldn't have been hit somewhere else.

Jeff asked Ethel's opinion. Ethel asked Rob Hewitt about water in that field. Rob lived near there growing up. He said there was some water there but he did not remember there ever being as much water as is standing there now. Jeff agreed. It was stated that Dave Carter has farmed this for several years, and he has never had this much water as an issue. Jeff Lipinski asked for direction from the council. Jeff Davidson said we have had one of the wettest falls we have had in a long time. The ground has never dried out good. He does not know if this has any bearing on the situation.

Pat Reel said there is nothing that can be done this time of year as cold as it is. Once the weather breaks, lets see what we can do with it. Hopefully we will be able to tell something then.

At this time the council wants to wait for the weather to see if the tile will try to start working, and see what it looks like.

They did advise Mr. Shepherd to go up to the county drainage board and talk to Dave Duncan or Greg Lake for the location of the tiles and to see what they can help them with.

Jeff Davidson reiterated that he dug where Mark told him the tile came through, if the drainage board tells him the tile is somewhere else, he can check in that area.

Ethel said she did draft the letter for the homeowners along the route if they wanted to connect and be on Russiaville sewage. Jeff Lipinski said he was surprised at the cost. Jeff said Lisa Shoffner contacted him about connecting. He asked Megan to please send her the letter about this.

Tree at 360 W. Main St. – There is a tree at this address that came down during a storm. The homeowner wanted the Town to cut it down. There was some discussion with council, Dave Kieser and Corbin King. After looking at the property and discussing the easements, Mr. Kieser said it was apparent to him that the tree is on private property. Nothing will be done by the Town will this tree.

Walking Trail – waiting on the weather and this will be completed this spring.

Ordinance # 2018-11 – Don Parvin said they are still working on this.

Year-end report – Don, Jeff, and Megan will work together to get this done.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, and no more comments from council or guests, the claims were presented and approved. Don Parvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat Reel seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Jeff Lipinski, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer