

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Town Hall
February 24, 2020

Council Present – Jeff Lipinski, Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Myrna Claar, and Greg Landrum.

Corbin King, town attorney, was also present.

Jeff Lipinski opened the meeting.

Jeff Lipinski said a prayer, touching on Jeff Stout and the impact his life had on this community, county, and state. Jeff also would like to keep Max Martin in prayer as he is struggling with health issues. Don Parvin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Don Parvin he personally wanted to say he had lost a great ally in Jeff Stout, and he will be sorely missed.

Minutes from last meeting and one special meeting were approved.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable was present to report, and stated he had no new business.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No one present to report

TIF – Nothing to report at this time.

Historical Society – Jan Koloszar was present. She stated their next meeting would be March 10th here at the Town Hall at 7pm. It is always the 2nd Tuesday. They double their attendance in February at the meeting.

On the sign at the Town Hall, there is a thing about being a movie star. They found out there are people in town who were part of a movie or other things and may have some stories to share. There is a box at the Town Hall inside to submit those stories.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present and stated she had received an email from AAA State of Play about the playground equipment they ordered. It is going to be delayed due to the coronavirus.

The recycled benches that are made from bottle caps are being working on. They are working on money for this and going to put together a “color run/walk” that will be held at the Walking Trail on May 1st. They are thinking 5-7 pm. They are working with the environmental club at Western and American Health Network to do this.

Rick Homkes said they have 2 eagle scout projects on tap. A beach volley ball court that they would like to put at the Community Center park, and the other is possibly a pergola. They are not sure where to put these. The beach volleyball court is part of a larger plan, and this will need to be considered with placement of things. They would like to move forward with these though.

Don Parvin questioned about the land that was there and putting in the playground, pavilion, and the volleyball court. Don said this will consume quite a bit of the land, if there is something, they want down the road, there may not be room for it. Rick Homkes said there is about 5-1/2 acres of green space.

Rick thinks they should save some money and get some professional design experience for parks, so they can figure out what and where things will fit, and what area they should be setting aside for what may occur 10 years down the road or so. Don Parvin said Dave Kieser has agreed to do this for \$8,000.00 if you so choose. Rick asked about the \$5,500.00 out of the Historical money that Dave had already been paid, wanting to know if that was just for the Historical Society. Dave, who was present, said yes it was.

Rick stated they didn't have any recommendations for this at the time, it was just discussed.

Jill said they know they need to have something planned out before they do anything. This was just brought to them by the 2 Eagle Scouts.

Pat Reel suggested the eagle scout that wanted to do the pergola, maybe include that with a memorial for Jeff Stout. Rick Homkes suggested maybe a sidewalk by the Interurban. Jan Koloszar agreed, saying they would chat about it.

Greg Landrum agreed with the Park Board, and said for them to get their “ducks in a row.” Greg is also concerned about the sand VB court with weeds and cats doing their business in it. Greg also said he admired the boys that came to the meeting to present doing these projects.

Pat Reel made a motion to accept these eagle scout projects. Greg Landrum seconded. Jeff Davidson was present and stated he would be able to help dig the volleyball court out, and see if Martin Marietta or Kokomo Gravel would donate some sand for it. Greg Landrum mentioned he is sure there is special sand for this. The motion carried with Pat, Greg, Don, and Myrna voting for passage.

Rick Homkes said at their last park board meeting he advised the board that he wanted to go slow for fundraising for the Community Center playground because they just did major fundraising (\$150K) in this community for the accessible playground at Western School, so he did not think the community would be ready for another major fundraiser like that. Rick stated the DNR had sent him an email inviting us to apply for grant funding with the water and land conservation fund (LWCF). This is a 50/50 grant. It can be used for pavilions and playgrounds. It is a minimum of \$50K and max of \$250K. Rick said a project that just happened recently in Lafayette and is close to what we are looking at was \$300K. Rick just wanted to let council know about this. They have until June 1st to apply for this. Don Parvin expressed his concern about coming up with the money.

Jeff Lipinski had a letter from Vonda Carter requesting a raise in pay for cleaning the Community Center. Jeff asked Megan what she was currently making. Megan said \$120.00 per month. Pat Reel made a motion to raise Vonda Carter's pay to \$150.00 per month. Don Parvin seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Don, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Streets and Wastewater – Craig Thompson was present and had given a written report. Craig said the new blower at the wastewater plant was up and going. The new lawnmower got here Friday. The new truck has been ordered, and we should get it about the first week of April. Pat Reel asked what our trade in was for the old one. Craig said they gave us \$10K for the Dodge. Craig said after he gets it, he would take it over so the new snow plow could be installed. Pat Reel said there are some pretty good potholes down by the library as you turn on to Mesa Drive that need to be filled. He knows that will be paved this spring, but we need to patch them before this. This is a heavily traveled area. Jeff Lipinski said there are a couple at North and Union Streets too. Craig said he would work on them.

Don Parvin said they interviewed Paul Sattler. The council thought he would be a good addition and would like to hire him effective March 2, 2020. Don Parvin made a motion to hire Paul Sattler to be the new town laborer. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Greg, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

Marshal's Dept. – Randy Vannatter was present and had given a written report. Jeff Lipinski complemented Randy and his department for the work they did on the serious crime that was committed in this community. Jeff said he had been told by law enforcement that Russiaville Police Dept. did an outstanding, all 3 of our officers worked on this, job with the particular situation.

Pat Reel made a motion to accept the Russiaville Town Council directive as of 2/24/2020 that was given to Marshal Vannatter this evening previous to the meeting. Don Parvin seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Don, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage. (the directive is below)

Russiaville Town Council directive for the Russiaville Police Department – February 24, 2020

1. The Russiaville Town Council wishes to suspend the K-9 program for 30 days as of February 24, 2020. This will be revisited after this time expires.
2. The Russiaville Town council no longer wishes to employ a part time deputy. Todd Everling will no longer be employed by the Town of Russiaville as of March 13, 2020.
3. The reserve program for the Town of Russiaville is on hold until further notice as of February 24, 2020.
4. All Russiaville Police Department Vehicles are only allowed to be driven from your home to the Town of Russiaville, nowhere else except for Western School Corporation. No unauthorized person shall ride in any Russiaville Police Department Vehicles unless approved by the Russiaville Town Council. Any necessary police protocol business will be permitted.
5. All police personnel will have a 1-hour unpaid lunch.
6. The Russiaville Town Marshal will work from 3:00 p.m. till 11:00 p.m. unless the Russiaville Town Council decides to change his work schedule.
7. The Russiaville Town Deputy Marshal will work with from the hours of 6:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. according to his 34-hour schedule unless the Russiaville Town Council decides to change his work schedule.
8. Russiaville Police Department are only allowed to patrol within the south-western part of the county. Officers must stay within the Town Limits of Russiaville when at all possible. Officers may assist other police departments, but only when called to do so. The Town of Russiaville has an agreement with Howard County Sheriff's Dept. and will honor our agreement with them.
9. All purchases by the Russiaville Police Department must be approved by the Russiaville Town Council prior to being made.

10. The Russiaville Town Marshal will be allowed only to spend \$100 (one hundred dollars) each month out his budget without approval. Anything over the \$100, must be approved by both appointed Russiaville Police Dept. representatives.
11. The Russiaville Town Marshal must submit a receipt of each purchase to the Russiaville Town Clerk each month before the purchases shall be paid and approved by the Russiaville Town Council. Anything that is not approved will not be paid by the Town of Russiaville. Sales Tax will not be paid on any receipts.
12. All Russiaville Police Department employee's must call or text Jeff Lipinski and Pat Reel and receive a reply, before being granted a day off or change in their work schedule.
13. The Russiaville Town Marshal must produce all required training documentation for all of the Russiaville Police Officers (including the Marshal) that have been completed, or that they must have, to perform their duties, including firearms, Emergency Vehicle Operations Training, Defensive Tactics Training and any other requirements by the State of Indiana.
14. The Russiaville Town Marshal must have a sign off sheet to show proof that the training, or any other requirements or documentation by the State of Indiana, or by the Marshal's Dept. have been completed, and copies must be given to the Russiaville Town Council Police representatives. All current Russiaville Police Dept. officers must be in compliance as of February 24, 2020.
15. All Russiaville Police Department officers must give advance notice to the Town Council before any vacation is granted prior to being taken, otherwise it will not be approved or paid. This does not have to be done in a public meeting.
16. All officers of the Russiaville Police Department must turn in a time sheet to the Russiaville Town Clerk for all hours worked or no pay shall be granted.
17. All streets in the Town of Russiaville will be patrolled by all Russiaville Police Department officers when practical.
18. The Russiaville Town Marshal must submit a complete budget for the Russiaville Police Department prior to the annual Russiaville Town Council budget meeting.
19. All Russiaville Police Vehicles driven by the officers of the Russiaville Police Department shall be determined by the Russiaville Town Council.
20. The Town Marshal will provide the Town Council with all other hours, mileage, and reasons why the Russiaville Police Department officers and vehicles were used outside of the Town limits of Russiaville.
21. All training for Russiaville Police Officers will be trained by a Certified Field Training Officer (FTO) along with the Russiaville Police Department.

_____ Jeff Lipinski

_____ Don Parvin

_____ Pat Reel

_____ Myrna Claar

_____ Greg Landrum

Randy Vannatter said he had still not heard anything on the radios from Motorola. He said as soon as he hears from them and they get here, they will be put in. As Randy stated last month, the cameras have been put in. These were both from the grant that the police department received.

Jeff Lipinski said he had seen the upgrade to the cameras at the Community Center, and asked about the upgrade at the police dept. and town hall. Randy said he had not had too many issues as of yet.

Don Parvin said there is an issue with one of the cameras and a tree. Don asked Randy to get with Rick Homkes and figure out how this could be resolved. Randy said he would. It is not bad right now, but when the tree bushes out it may be more of a hindrance for the camera. Randy thought it would be a good idea to just remove the tree.

Don Parvin asked Randy about evaluating the emergency response for disasters. He would like to see this updated as to who does what and what is process for a disaster that may occur here in town. Jeff Lipinski said Pam Isaacs told him the county commissioners have started a new protocol called COAD. Jeff thought the RCO (Russiaville Community Outreach) group had talked about this, and addressed Rick Homkes. Rick stated they were doing something parallel. The RCO group wanted something a little more, hands on, versus the county that was a little more umbrella (county wide). Jeff said he went to the county meeting about this. Jeff also said that Ms. Isaacs thought maybe it would be a good idea if the RCO group was involved with the next county discussion. Jeff said as far as the police department, Randy would run the town in that aspect and take direction from the Sheriff if there was a disaster or emergency. Randy stated that usually EMA keeps everyone apprised of what is going on when weather things of this magnitude come up.

Randy Vannatter also mentioned that the Lions Club siren has been fixed and is up and running again. Pat Reel said the first Sunday is coming up to test them in March. March 1st at 3pm will be the first one of the season.

Don Parvin said he would just like a plan as far as search and rescue if Howard County cannot get here. Don wanted to know if Russiaville fire/EMS and the Marshal's Dept. got together and had a plan for this. Randy Vannatter stated it was pretty much a coordinated effort, the county and EMA have people in the area if weather is getting bad. Randy said he has to stay pretty local to keep the

sirens going. It is just a concerted effort. Jeff said Howard County wants Greentown and Russiaville to have their own plans.

Rick said as far as Russiaville, they would like to ultimately have a list of people with oxygen generator, etc. The fire dept. and Marshal's Dept. would have this list and if the power were to be out for extended times, they would know where to go for the things that were needed.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. She had nothing else to add.

Dave Kieser – Dave stated it was time to bid the sidewalk portion of State Road 26 on both sides down to 775 W. (West St.) for the grant. Dave said they are still working with Duke Energy on the lighting portion of this project. There is a grant (more than the \$97,500 than we already received) on this lighting. It is called Rural Energy Efficiency of America Energy Efficiency Program. It pays for new lights through the community and LED lighting to replace existing. They want you to do in the business district first, but economic development corridors can be done as well. Don Parvin made a motion to allow Kieser Consulting to bid out the sidewalk portion of the grant from intersection to 775 W. Greg Landrum asked about going East on 26. Dave said the grant we have right now is only for the West, they will work on the East later. Greg also asked how they broadcast for people to bid on this. Dave replied that they contact people within the area that do this kind of work, and people that they know from previous jobs. It will be published in the Kokomo Tribune. Pat Reel seconded the motion, and it carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Dave said they have requested 3 bids on sealing the recreational trail. This will be for 2 coats. It is an intermediate surface, so the first coat will fill in all the gaps and the second coat will make it sealed like it should be. Jansen, E&B, and Crenshaw were the 3 requested. Dave thinks it will be less than \$7K.

The wastewater plant PER – Dave said Steve Brock has sent him some information. They are reviewing the financial information in terms of how much the rates would increase for this project. They are hopeful there will be other grant opportunities to be able to buy this down some. The wastewater plant project will cost \$1.5 million. Pat Reel stated we are at 88% capacity. We are close to being put on a sewer ban for this. Craig Thompson said IDEM may do it anyway at 88%.

Dave said they did a cost estimate for extending a sidewalk on Union St. Dave gave paperwork with the area and estimates, for everyone to look at. This will be for future discussion. This will be from Lions Street to 330 S.

Greg Landrum asked about the wastewater plant project again, wanting to know what they were doing. Dave stated they were going to put in more tanks, bigger tanks to increase the capacity from 200,000 gallons a day to 300,000. Also, a new clarifier and 2 new digesters. This will increase the efficiency and capacity.

Don Parvin asked Dave what was the timeframe on the lighting grant for Rural Energy Efficiency Program. Dave said they had to have a request in by March 31st. Don asked how long this would take. Dave said, by the time they work with Duke Energy, it will be 2021.

Jeff Lipinski expressed his frustration with this lighting project. It has taken a long time, and we have been waiting over a year. Now we are talking about doing more lights. Jeff said he wants the original lights in before we do more lights. Dave understands his frustration. We are at the mercy of other people getting their part done so we can move forward with this.

Dave Kieser said the feasibility study is about 50% done.

Myrna Claar asked about the Historical Society grant for \$5,000.00 that has had extensions filed on it. Myrna asked what we are going to use that money for. Dave said they would use that for leverage to get a Heritage Support Grant that needs to be applied for by March 3rd for the initial proposal. The application is due April 30th. It is for \$50,000.00 to work on the interior, and that would include the HVAC which was what the \$5,000.00 was for in the first place.

225 E. Seward St. – No one is present to discuss. No new information.

RYBL – Mr. Hyman and Mr. Mashino from Russiaville Youth Baseball League are present. They are hosting the Cal Ripken 8-year-old all-star tournament in July. This will be July 10th-12th and 17th-19th. They would like to have the use of the Community Center parking lot for the event for these dates. Jeff Lipinski asked if this was a state tournament. Mr. Mashino said “yes” it is. Pat Reel made a motion for the ball league to use the Community Center and the parking lot for the dates above. Don Parvin asked them to abide by the no parking areas. Greg

Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Greg, Don, and Myrna voting for passage.

Mr. Mashino said on the left field fence line of the minor league field, a couple years ago they came to a meeting and got permission to set some bleachers there. They are sinking pretty badly into the ground and want to know if we can help. Craig Thompson said this is the park property, and they had come to use to be able to set the bleachers there. Pat Reel said we have a pile of millings down there could we put that in there. After some discussion, the council said for the ball league to move the bleachers, and the town would put the millings in there, and then they can set the bleachers back there.

Fire Contract for 2020 – The fire dept. dropped the contract off with new pay dates of March 1st and September 1st. There was some discussion about these dates as they had changed from June and December in previous years. Pat Reel made a motion to accept the contract if the Fire Department gave the Town a new contract by the next meeting with the pay dates being June 1st and December 1st for 2020. There was some more discussion about the pay dates changing. There was no one present from the fire department to support this contract. Greg Landrum seconded the motion. Don Parvin was opposed. The motion passed with Pat, Greg, and Myrna voting for passage.

Don Parvin said he just wants this to be over with, the contract should have been here in December.

Dog Poop cleanup – Megan Reel said she had a complaint about her neighbor letting their dog poop in her yard. The resident asked if there was a rule that you are supposed to clean up after your pets. Megan said she told her it was. The resident asked if we could reiterate this in a town meeting, so people would know they are responsible to clean up after their pets. Jeff suggested we put this on the sign.

Jeff Lipinski said he got a message from Sam Weber from the Clover Leaf Trail steering committee. He is in charge of putting a trail from Kokomo to Frankfort, so this will affect Russiaville. They have a meeting on March 6th at noon at Kokomo City Hall.

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. Pat Reel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Myrna Claar seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Jeff Lipinski, President

Megan Reel, Clerk-Treasurer