

## MEETING MINUTES

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537

Thursday July 14, 2022 6:00 PM

### Council Members

Roger Ecker, Pres.

Ryan Young

**Council Members present:** Roger Ecker, Ryan Young

**Council Members absent** – none

Town Clerk- Treasurer – present

Town Attorney – present

**Call to order** – meeting started at 6:30PM (held after the public meeting)

**Patrons:** Paul and Linda Tyler, Jerry Auer, Phil Ellinger, John Lampkins, Matt Haskins, Linda and Max King, Rich Clark, Angela Cornell, Kevin Berger

**Approval of Minutes:** Ecker made a motion to approve the minutes from June 9, 2022 as written. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye. Motion carried 2-0.

**Old Business: Fire Territory:** Ecker gave permission for Chief Haskins to do an update on the meeting the North Township Advisory Board held on Monday July 11, 2022 at the fire station. The Advisory voted to go forth with the preliminary study for a fire territory for \$5000.00. Territory needed due to the Town of Lakeville's new incoming trustee stated she will be ending their agreement with the ambulance service. EMT's lost 6 members to other organizations due to low wages paid by Union-North. Members are paid \$9.00 to \$12.50 per hour with no benefits. Ecker stated he was hoping Polk Township would be joining into the territory. Discussion was made for why the need of an ambulance service. Having to turn down calls when no EMT on duty, so far this year 701 calls with 40 being turned down due to no staff, other towns do not have to respond to a call from LaPaz and response times were some of the reasons mentioned. Ecker made a motion to go forth taking the next step with the North Township Advisory Board. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye. Motion carried: 2-0.

**Park:** Update; Ecker asked for the surveyor to survey the property to separate the plots from the fire department and the park.

**Police Department:** Interviews have been conducted. The COPS Grant pays for 3 years with a match from the town. The town will pay salary in full starting the 4<sup>th</sup> year. LaPaz was one of four communities in Indiana to receive this grant. Ecker made a motion to make an offer to hire the top qualified candidate. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye. Motion Carried 2-0.

**101 S Michigan Street:** The tear down old building is progressing. The owner, Mr. Arturo Valdez informed the council he wants to put in new apartments in the existing lot. A resident asked for the council to ask that Mr. Valdez to make sure all that the nails are picked up around the demo site in the alley and street.

**MVH:** no needs at this time.

**Sewer Dept.:** Plant running fine. Heating and air conditioning hotel units are starting to break down. Ecker asked Jerry Auer to get a bid for replacing the 2 units from Tyler Plumbing and Heating. Auer reported a home tank on Kimble Street was full of tree roots that he had to uncover where the people had covered over the tank with soil. American Legion tanks get pumped twice a year.

**New Business:** Ecker stated the town needed to repost a help wanted position for part-time MVH helper.

**Old Business Minutes Continued page 2**

**Ordinance Violations:** Attorney Wagner stated he sent the clerk a ticket form the new officer can use for violations tickets. Clerk will have them printed up in a triplicate form.

**LaPaz Commons Update:** Kevin Berger stated he was looking to do the sewer taps in before the gravel. He still hopes to do before fall.

**Patron Comments:** Phil Ellinger commented on the nice parade the town had for 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Clerk stated a new and definite route will be made for next year.

A Walnut Street resident complained on the traffic speeding on Walnut Street. He also complained about the semis. Ecker stated we will soon have a police officer to do traffic control.

**Attorney Update:** none at this time.

**Financials:** Ecker made a motion to pay APV vouchers from June 10<sup>th</sup> – July 14, 2022 APV #'s 3704 - 3752 for a total of \$53,436.01. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye. Motion Carried 2-0.

**Clerk Update:** Dove reported she received lien money from Marshall County for \$7,265.29 and from St. Joseph County for \$503.67. She put 20 residents on her TRECS listing hoping to capture the refund from state of Indiana that will be releasing out soon. Liens will be placed on the properties if no payment is received by mid-September. Dove reported to the council, one house will be going up for a sheriff sale in October. Dove stated the contact with Republic Services ends December 2022. Bid invitations to bid on the contract should be sent out in October. She asked if APEX could be one of the companies to request a bid from. Ecker asked Young to check out the number of vacant houses in his district. A credit can be received on the town's sanitation billing.

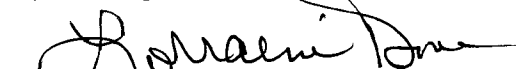
**Adjournment:** President Ecker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye. Motion carried 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

  
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Roger Ecker, Council President

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date

  
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Ryan Young, Council Member

8-11-2022  
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date

  
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Lorraine Dove, Clerk – Treasurer

8-11-2022  
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date