

## MEETING MINUTES

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537

Thursday June 9, 2022 6:00 PM

### Council Members

Roger Ecker, Pres.

Ryan Young

Donella Emmons

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

**Council Members absent** – none

Town Clerk- Treasurer – present

Town Attorney – present

**Call to order** – meeting started at 6:00PM

**Patrons:** Paul Tyler, Jerry Auer, Steve Stacy, Sandy Fisher, Phil Ellinger, Chad Salzbrenner, John Lampkins, Matt Haskins, Adam Sitka, Arturo Valdez, Zonia Valdez, Kevin Berger, Cathy & Charles Welch.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ecker made a motion to approve the minutes from May 12, 2022 as written. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Emmons-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Old Business:** Water Study; Adam Sitka of Wessler Engineering came to the council to request a public hearing for to hear the results of the water rate study and the SRF loan and PER submitted. He will provide handouts for the public and have a power point presentation for what the project is, the need and what the solutions are. Ecker made a motion to hold a public meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 with the regular monthly council meeting to follow. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker – aye, Young-aye, Emmons-aye. Motion carried 3-0. Council asked the clerk to have Shannon McLeod to attend the meeting as well.

**Park:** Since the last council meeting, Ecker met with the fire department to inquire if the department would be willing to switch ownership of the old community building property with property owned by the town at the west side of the current park. It was discussed that Washington would run straight south, and to be the dividing line between the fire department and park properties. This will be contingent on getting approval from the zoning board to make sure there is adequate land available for the department to expand in the future. The property lot that was donated to the township by Ronnie McCarthy then would transfer to the town as well. Washington Street then would be renamed to Park Drive. Matt Haskins reported that the fire department voted on and approved transferring of properties. Ecker is to retain a firm to do the land survey of these lots. Ecker made a motion to continue Washington Street to Park Drive. All town owned property west of Washington Street be transferred to the fire department and hire a survey done on the property. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker- aye, Young-aye Emmons–aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Sidewalk Project:** Chad Salzbrenner of Fleis & VanderBrink came before the council to have the town sign the agreement for his firm to do the preliminary engineering design for the 2024 OCRA sidewalk project. This encompasses the sidewalks on the west side of Michigan Street from Walnut Street south to Vintage Street. Ecker made a motion to approve the contract with Flies & Vanderbrink. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker –aye, Young-aye, Emmons-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Body Camera Grant:** After much research and discussion the council found it would be too costly to pursue getting a new body camera, with set-up fees and cloud service. The grant would only pay for the camera not the storage system. The police department currently has the capability to store video on the present docking system. Ecker made the motion to decline the grant. Young seconded the motion. Rollcall: Ecker–aye, Young-aye, Emmons-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

## Old Business Minutes Continued page 2

Troyer Street extension: The nonexistent part of Troyer Street needs to be able to have a base so as to be graded in order to qualify for OCRA grant. Betcher would lay stone and be rolled out for the 275 ft. of Troyer Street extending out to Michigan Street. The cost would be \$8000.00. Kevin Berger asked the council to have the area marked out so the engineers will know as to exactly where the street exists for sidewalks along the street and the entrance to their development plans for the town housing. Berger still hopes to break ground this year. He still plans to have completed by end of 2023. Ecker made a motion to approve having Betcher do the work. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Emmons-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**MVH:** Paul Tyler questioned the council if due to current gas prices if it was better to cancel the weekly service for picking up sticks verses driving around every Monday looking for piles to pick up. After a storm he would do his regular pickups on Mondays. He proposed to do it on a call in bases.

**Sewer Dept.:** The Plant is 30 years old. After reading the report from IDEM regarding the mechanical skimmer splitter beyond a useful life, Ecker asked the department to create a computerized routine maintenance schedule for the plant itself and tank pumping. Auer said it is currently properly working but will need replaced down the road. Ecker stated that the pumping of home tanks was to be on a 3 year rotation schedule and it hasn't been done routinely. Ecker asked Jerry Auer to drive around to notate which homes have fences in the way of accessing the tanks for pumping. He asked Steve Stacy to assemble everything on a spread sheet to keep this information for easy reporting. Jerry will be spraying weed killer around all the lift stations. The clerk will be having door hanger cards printed for notification of work or pumping. Ecker is to be getting quotes for tee shirts with town identification for town employees.

**New Business:** 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade: Young is checking with the American Legion to get the train for the parade. Clerk will be putting out flyers, putting notice on the town website and Facebook asking for sign up participants.

Town Ditch: Louie Albert had made a complaint to the clerk regarding dredging the ditch. He stated water was pooling on his field from over flow.

Clerk reported in April she contacted Mishler to spray the ditch. Ecker stated he did as well. Ecker had Haskins look into the condition of the ditch. Haskins reported that the pipes were exposed and the water was draining. Ecker will call Louie and David Albert to speak with them directly.

Community Center: Ecker informed the council that Don Balka will be working with the Community foundation trying to obtain a grant to acquire the old church building. The church is now officially up for sale.

Fire Territory: Matt Haskins, fire chief and John Lampkins, EMS reported that funding is the key issue for having a fire territory. Manpower for the fire department is dwindling. EMS cannot afford higher pay. A territory would offer better protection, response time, 24 hour service for EMS. EMS had 701 calls in 2021. Over 30 calls last year and 20 calls so far this year were turned over to another service due to lack of staff. A study needs to be done soon. They are asking Polk Township, Town of LaPaz and North Township to create a territory to tax for funding. The feasibility study cost would range between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to complete. It will give a cost per household. John Lampkins would give Baker-Tilly a budget to do the study. They asked the council to attend a meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> at the fire station at 6:00 PM.

**Meeting Minutes Continued page 3**

101 S Michigan St.: Attorney Wagner reported the closing on the building is not completed yet. Ecker made a motion to authorize Attorney Tony Wagner to complete the transaction for the sale of 101 S Michigan Street building to Arturo and Zonia Valdez. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Emmons-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Patron Comments:** Charles Welch reported to the council that he is complying with the notification letter he received regarding the obstruction in the alley behind their house. He asked MVH department if they could remove the stump that was in the alley right-a-way.

**Attorney Update:** Wagner presented the final draft of Ordinance 2022-03 Off Road Vehicles to the council. Ecker made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-03 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Emmons-aye. Motion carried 3-0. Clerk is to have stickers printed for golf cart registration. Wagner reported that Marshall County wants a record of all of LaPaz ordinances that have violation fines for their e-file. He and the clerk worked together to gather the requested information. Wagner created a schedule of the fines for the council to look at and go over. He is to send a ticket form to use with the new officer the town is to hire.

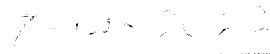
**Financials:** Clerk informed council that the Allowance of Accounts Payable Voucher Report was not presented at the last meeting. Tonight's report has both months voucher which reflects higher dollar amount. Ecker made a motion to pay APV vouchers from February 17<sup>th</sup> – March 9<sup>th</sup> voucher numbers 3519-3561 and May 13<sup>th</sup> – June 9<sup>th</sup> voucher numbers 3664- 3703 for a total of \$172,760.70. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Emmons-aye. Motion Carried 3-0.

**Clerk Update:** Dove presented an amendment to Resolution 02-2022 that was establishing use of ARPA Funds. Dove stated the new resolution was to make a clearer understanding and easier of use of funds. Ecker made a motion to approve the new resolution # 03-2022 Amendment of ARAP Distribution. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Emmons-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

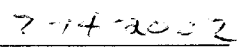
Dove informed the council she sent 22 pre-lien sewer letters out on June first. Total outstanding \$3,778.40 to be filed with additional cost of \$50 added on to the liens to be filed for filing costs. Dove also informed to the council that she will ask for additional appropriation to spend ARAP funds at the July meeting. Notice has been put in the newspaper. Dove reminded the council she will be gone to the ILMCT Conference Monday June 13-Wednesday June 15<sup>th</sup>. She will be in office on Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup>. Ecker stated he will be on vacation the week of June 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:** President Ecker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Emmons-aye. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Ecker, Council President

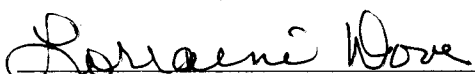
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
date

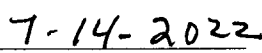
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Young, Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
date

**RESIGNED** 7-1-2022  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donella Emmons, Council Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lorraine Dove, Clerk – Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
date