

## MEETING MINUTES

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537  
Thursday January 14, 2021 6:00 PM

### Council Members

Roger Ecker, Pres.  
Ryan Young  
Kelli Chavez

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

**Council Members absent** - None

Town Clerk- Treasurer – present

Town Attorney – present

Call to order – meeting started at 6:05PM- Virtual Meeting

**Patrons:** Steve Stacy, Linda Sanders of Wessler Engineering, Laura Walls of MCEDC, Jeff Rowe of Bakertilly and Ken Jones.

**Election of President:** Floor was open to nominations for President. Ryan Young made a motion to re-elect Roger Ecker as President. Kelli Chavez seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Second order of business:** Ecker made a motion to retain Tony Wagner as the town attorney. Chavez seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried 3-0. He will need to bring new contract to next meeting contract.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ecker made a motion to approve December 10, 2020 minutes as written. Chavez 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Roll call. 3 ayes / 0 nays – motion carried.

**Old Business:** **LED sign update:** Ecker attended a North Township board meeting to discuss placement of the new sign. He was not able to attain permission from I & M for placement of the sign at the corner of US 6 and Michigan Street. He stated that a couple of township board members were not happy about placing the sign at the fire station. In the end they approved of installing of the LED sign to replace the existing sign. The fire Chief Haskins will make final approval of the exact location. Reese Theater in Plymouth will be the first sign installed.

**Donations:** Ecker asked for the clerk to put on the Facebook and website, a "thank you" for Mac's Market and Dollar General for the donation of prizes for the Christmas Light contest.

**COVID Response Act:** Ecker asked the clerk to apply for money for employee off due to COVID. The clerk had spoken with IFA regarding the use of funds since the date was expired. The balance of the funds will be requested as reimbursement for police payroll in accordance with the grant.

**Website:** Clerk stated the new website was up and running. Clerk asked for permission to make payment of \$2200.00 to Apheus for the completion of the project. The payment was approved in at the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting so no vote was taken.

**MVH:** The transmission in the truck out. Emergency repairs needed done ASAP. Paul Tyler contacted Roger Ecker for approval since repairs would be under \$5000.00. The work was done by Skiles Collision for \$4305.58. Ecker made a motion to pay \$4305.58 for the repairs. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried 3-0.

Due to the ice storm several branches are done and needing pick up.

**Sewer Dept:** Steve Stacy stated the department is running good. No problems. Haskins underground has completed the work. Ecker made a motion to pay Haskins \$59,000.00 as was bided. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried 3-0.

**New Business:** Laura Walls of MCEDC introduced herself to the council. She has spoken with someone interested in the commercial property at US 6 & US 31. She has met Chelsea Smith who is the representative for LaPaz. She is looking forward to working with LaPaz.

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### **New Business Continued**

Jeff Rowe came to update the council on Marshall County Regional Sewer District. There are 15 areas of the unincorporated areas of Marshall County with Teegarden being the closest to LaPaz, which are in need of treatment for sewage. There are 41 homes, 2 churches and 1 fire station in Teegarden with bad septic systems and lots too small to update to today's standards. Ken Jones, Marshall County engineer consultant, wants Teegarden to hook up to the LaPaz treatment plant. Dr. Holm, Marshall County Health Department wants to do a memorandum of understanding with LaPaz to go ahead with a study for this project. It would be a septic tank pump system. LaPaz would receive approximately 8,000 gallons per day with just liquids, no solids, and no storm water. Steve Stacy stated our plant would be capable of handling the extra flow with no problem. The Regional sewer district would handle the maintenance of the systems. LaPaz would receive a bulk rate payment, not individual payments from customers. Bakertilly will do the study for the user rate, treatment charges for the district. Steve stated maybe Teegarden would be interested in water as well if LaPaz goes forward with that project. President Ecker made a motion to go forward with the study. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried 3-0.

Stellar: Ecker stated that Bremen had one street project turned down. This means one million dollars to back into Stellar Fund for other areas. Due to all the expense for advertising and paperwork the committee has to do with the grants for all the towns, the committee is asking each town to contribute to the cost. Other towns are contributing \$5,000.00. After discussion it was decided LaPaz would contribute \$2000.00 to the stellar project. Ecker made a motion to pay the \$2000.00. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried 3-0.

Unsafe Buildings: The next meeting for the committee is January 25<sup>th</sup>. The clerk asked Chavez to inquire who is taking Chuck DeWitt's place. He was keeping track of the progress renovations of the building at 115 S Michigan St. The clerk was concerned apartments were being put into the occasions part of the building without permits. Mr. DeWitt was to be checking back on this.

US Census: President Ecker received an email regarding boundaries of town limits. He forwarded to the clerk.

Patron Comments: A resident had called in to complain about the rental property located at 201 Walnut Street. There has been a couch and lot of trash sitting outside for a long while. They never remove the toters from the street after pick up. Ecker will go to take photos so the town can send letter to the owner.

Attorney Update: Mr. Wagner had spoken to Mr. Marshall regarding the vehicles stored at 123 Michigan ST. According to Mr. Marshall one of the vehicles has been vandalized so he is now inclined to remove them from this site. He said he has contacted Blount's to move the vehicles elsewhere by February first.

Regarding the Hathaway residence at 106 N Michigan Street, Wagner asked if there was any improvement with the RV situation after the letters he sent. It was reported the motor home still there with no one living in it. The new concern is the continued pile of rubbish that the residents do an open burn on the ground.

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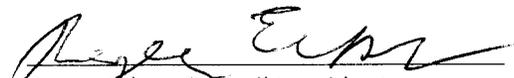
CCD Policy: Clerk wants to update the rate for the town. Wagner is to prepare a preliminary ordinance for the next meeting for the council to discuss.

Clerk update: Lorraine updated the council regarding reimbursements for COVID expenses. The town was reimbursed for the new laptops that are on order, a monitor and sound bar for clerk's office. The remaining funds of \$2544.50, the clerk will be applying for reimbursement of officer payroll as directed by the IFA. The clerk did say the bid for meeting room camera & recording came in at \$928.00. The money could be used for that purpose. Roger made a motion for the clerk to apply for the video camera and recording. Ryan seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried 3-0.

Financials: Ecker made a motion to approve APV's from December 11<sup>th</sup> – January 14<sup>th</sup>. Chavez 2<sup>nd</sup> - roll call: 2 ayes - 0 nays- motion carried 3-0.

Close: Ecker made a motion to close the council meeting. Chavez 2<sup>nd</sup> – roll call – 2 ayes / 0 nays – motion carried. Adjourned at 7:07 PM

Announcements: Next Council meeting will be February 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM

  
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Roger Ecker, Council President

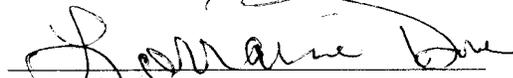
2-11-2021  
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Ryan Young, Council Member

2-11-2021  
date

  
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Kelli Chavez, Council Member

2/11/21  
date

  
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Lorraine Dove, Clerk – Treasurer

2/11/2021  
date