

Town of LaFontaine

13 W. Branson Street
LaFontaine, IN 46940
765-981-4591

Meeting Minutes, April 10, 2023

The Town Council held its monthly meeting on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6pm. Lori Brane opened the meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Attending were Lori Brane, Jay Gillespie, John Krhin, Jordan Tandy, Lance Gray, Teresa Snyder, Ethel Eib, Jerry Bowman, Jim Garrison, Deb Garrison and Rob Bellucci.

The board members approved minutes from January 9, 2023; February 13, 2023; March 13, 2023, and April 6, 2023 meetings. John motioned to approve, Lori seconded. Vote 3-0.

Rob Bellucci from Common Wealth Engineers gave an update on the Wastewater Project. Rob presented invoices to be paid for Division "A" Culy at \$339,031.44, Division "B" Crosby at \$7,837.50 and Invoice #55575, #55576, #55577 from Common Wealth Engineers for a total of \$32,386.54, for a grand total of \$379,255.48. Jay made a motion to pay the invoices. Lori 2nd. Vote 3-0 carried. Rob presented change orders for the contingency fund of a credit invoice for Division "A" Culy for (\$3,744.00) and for Division "B" Crosby at \$25,927. Jay made a motion to accept the changes. John 2nd. Vote 3-0 carried. Rob says completion of the project is mid-May. Restoration will begin soon to repair yards. He said there are grant funds for cleaning and video taping of the remainder of the sewer mains. There are several ways the town can use the remaining grant money. Jay expressed concern over manhole covers that haven't been corrected and Rob will address with Culy. Rob and Lance will check the manhole cover that Jerry Bowman mentioned and will check the manhole in back of the town hall. There will be a walk through with USDA RD on Friday.

There was no marshal report.

Fire Chief Tom Simpson called in to report 6 EMS runs and 1 fire run for March, 2023.

Utility Report was given by Lance. We received the backhoe and need to send info the Liberty Mutual. He will be repairing pot holes in the following weeks. Town Clean Up is scheduled for April 13 – April 15.

Teresa gave the Clerk report in Diana's absence: Beacon checking, Beacon savings and Flagstar banks are reconciled. Fifty-four disconnect letter were mailed. Seven residences were shut off and five have been restored. Three adjustments were presented and approved; Lori motioned, Jay seconded. Vote 3-0. Four invoices were presented to be paid and John motioned to approve, Lori seconded. Vote 3-0.

On the agenda: Albert Brumley did not attend. Jim and Deb Garrison are concerned about a tree on Martin Street that they believe is on town property that they are afraid will fall on their house. They will find the survey of the land and Jordan will research who the tree owner is and who is responsible.

Town Insurance: Teresa to send backhoe info to Liberty Mutual.

Library Funds: The sidewalk is the responsibility of the Library, not the Town.

Justice Goff: John will reach out again to get approval for the sign.

The town has not received any quotes for trash removal to date except for Republic Services. The Board will discuss this at the May CM.

Town parcels: Jordan will work with the court house to combine parcels and get 911 addresses.

Tree Trimming: we will have the Marshall send letters to the residences that are in violation.

Park Pavilion: Jay got a ballpark quote for \$30 - \$60 per square foot for the pavilion. We need to know the actual dollar amount that the park fund donated to the town and where the Clerk has stored the funds. A concern is where will people park if we build a pavilion.

Jay explained the need for the Clerk to invest Town money. A \$1,000,000 investment would gain \$40,000 per year.

The ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance from the Wabash County Board of Commissioners was tabled.

The Water Grant was discussed. Jay motioned to retain Reedy Financial Group as the Municipal Advisor for the BAN for the Water Project, John seconded. Vote 3-0. The town will need to raise water rates based on the recommendation of Reedy Financial Group. The last rate increase was adopted in 2012 but the Clerk did not implement the increase until 2016.

The board will discuss the water rate increase after getting sanitation quotes.

The board signed bank reconciliation documents, payroll documents and the Accounts Payable Register.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm. Lori motioned, Jay seconded. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Snyder
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
April 11, 2023

