

Town of Roann
Meeting Minutes

13 August 2013

I. Call to order

James Francis called to order the regular meeting of the **Town of Roann** at **7:02 p.m.** on the **13th day of August** in **Roann Town Hall**.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: James Francis, Susan Floor, James Pell, Robert "M" Ferguson Jr., Kristina Lynn, Bruce Shaw, Eric Walsh of Umbaugh, Mitch. Hansel of Bunnell Land Surveying and Engineering and 27 citizens.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. read the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected.

IV. Open issues

- a) Barb Burdge a representative of Roann Community Heritage, Inc. made a presentation to the Roann Town Council. Recently the Town of Roann was placed on the State and National Register of Historic Places. James Francis accepted the Certificates from the Roann Community Heritage, Inc. and they will be displayed in the Roann Town Hall.
- b) James Francis opened the public hearing for the Rate change in the Water and Sewage Ordinances. James Francis explained the ground rules for the hearing and the floor was opened to anyone that wished to be heard. Eric Walsh from Umbaugh gave an overview of the Water and Sewage rates and where the Town of Roann stood in the state. He also explained that there had not been a rate change in 7 to 11 years respectively in either Water or Sewage. James Francis then opened the floor to anyone present that would like to be heard. Todd Slee 210 North Church St, Roann. The question asked was, is this increase due to all of the renovation at the sewer plant several years ago. James Francis explained that we do have a bond that we are repaying from that renovation. Todd Slee, "Wasn't that a grant?" James Francis "A portion was but a lot was from the bond." Eric Walsh explained that the bond that the town is currently paying off is about \$35,000.00 a year and will not be paid off until 2023. Todd Slee thought that when they did the increase in 2005 that we were to have 2 percent increase for every year after that. James Francis explained that the Council was not a part of that board and those rates were never implemented. Pat Sucher 405 East Quincy asked why we can't drill wells. Kristina Lynn explained when the systems were built there was an Ordinance that required all citizens to hook up to the water and sewage. Jerry Mills 140 West Walnut stated that if the average user in the Town of Roann was \$60.00 that he has paid in excess of 100.00 in the years he has lived in the town. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. invited Jerry Mills to come to the office and he would look at his history. Kay White 405 South Church Street made the statement that many people in the town do not pay their water and sewage bill

and that if the town would raise the rates there would be more people in town not paying their bill. James Francis explained that over the last couple of years that Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. had made it a goal to bring the figure down of outstanding water and sewage payment. This has been dropped significantly. Eric Walsh explained that in many cases after an increase in rates water bills do drop because the consumer becomes more conservative, but after a short period of time the water usage will come back to where it was before. Pearl Sturgill asked how many gallons of water we can use before your rate goes up. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. answered a citizen pays a minimum bill for the first 2000 gallons and then it starts to go up. James Francis closed the public meeting. At this time James Pell made a motion to adopt a Rate Increase Ordinance 2013-3 and Ordinance 2013-4. Susan Floor seconded the motion and was carried in favor of a vote of 3-0.

- c) Mitch Hansel from Bunnell Land Surveying and Engineering made a presentation to the Council about helping the town to become ADA accessible. Mitch Hansel will get a quote to the Council. Susan Floor will look over the proposal when it is received by the town.
- d) Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. presented the 2014 preliminary Budget. The public hearing for the Budget is set for September 10, 2013 and the Adoption meeting is set for October 8, 2013. The Council was given a copy of the Notice that was published in the newspaper.
- e) Bruce Shaw contacted Vonnell Krom, Russell Krom, James Pell and Dennis Dyson when IDEM came into town on the 12th of August. The inspector had an onsite meeting with those present. In the IDEM report it was made known that additional barriers were set around the well houses and that on-site spill kits were present. The report also indicated that the town is waiting on additional recommendation from IDEM for further actions.
- f) Bruce Shaw had the bid on the repair of the streets in the town. The Council had approved up to \$15,000.00 for repairs. The total cost is \$21,167.00. After going through the places to be repair it was found that some had been caused from repairs made to either water or sewage lines. It was determined that we could use money from the water and sewage operating funds to do those and that Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. had found some additional funds that could be used to be able to do the complete project. Susan Floor made a motion to amend the previous motion of \$15,000.00 for road patching and increase it to \$21,167.00 so that we can complete all of the repairs recommended. James Pell seconded the motion and a vote of 3-0 in favor was made.
- g) Bruce Shaw has an area of street that is sinking. Part of the road is asphalt and part concrete and it is attached to a storm drain. It will cost approximately \$4,500.00 to have this dug up and repaired. It would be beneficial to have it done now so that when the street repairs are being done this can be done at the same time. Two catch basins are also in need of repair which will be a total of \$1,265.00. Susan Floor made a motion to approve \$4,500.00 for the repairs at Chippewa and Pike, and to buy the grates and repair for the other improvements at a cost of \$1,265.00. James Pell seconded the motion and a vote of 3-0 was made in favor.
- h) Steve Hicks was present and spoke to the Town council about the hiring of a night watchman. He felt that it should be someone on a rotating schedule and not someone walking around in the middle of the day. Officer Hicks also thought the person should report directly to the Town Council. He felt a probationary period would be beneficial to the town so that the Council could

determine if this was something that was helping the citizens of Roann. Kristina Lynn would like to meet with Steve Downs to see what had been drawn up by the county. Steve Hicks will also send copies. Steve Hicks is currently an officer with the Wabash Sheriff Department with 19 year's experience as an officer, senior state instructor and trained on computer surveillance. Susan Floor felt this would be beneficial to the town in running its surveillance equipment. Steve Hicks also mentioned changing the title to Town Marshall.

- i) The security light at the playground is out. James Francis suggested that Bruce Shaw check on having the security light fixed.
- j) Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. presented to the board Ordinance 2013-2. On June the 11th, 2013 the council approved and signed the Ordinance. After the State had looked at the ordinance they notice a word had been omitted. The Ordinance was sent back to the town for approval and signature. James Pell made a motion to approve the amended Ordinance 2013-2. Susan Floor seconded the motion and a vote in favor was cast 3-0.

New Business

- a) Bruce Shaw would like to know how much to charge outside companies that would purchase water from the town. It was suggested that we have a Resolution that would explain how the charges would be calculated. Bruce Shaw thought we could charge the rate that is used for figuring the citizens water bill plus tax.
- b) Bruce Shaw explained that the mower is not working. James Pell said that Houlihans had the mower and the work would cost \$2,500.00 to have it repaired. The mower currently has 750 hours on it. James Pell has gone to some mower dealers in the area including BobCat of Warsaw, Eel River of North Manchester, Houlihan's of Wabash, Kerlin's in Silver Lake, and Wabash Portable. BobCat of Warsaw had the best deal. The amount was \$10,159.00 for an Exmark which will include a 3 year commercial warranty. Susan Floor made a motion to purchase the Exmark from BobCat of Warsaw for the purchase price of \$10,159.00. James Pell seconded the motion and a vote of 3-0 was made in favor.
- c) Bruce Shaw had asked Gaunt and Sons about putting asphalt on the basketball court. An amount of \$4,495.00 was quoted. The council decided that the amount was more then they wanted to spend.
- d) Bruce Shaw has additional asphalt at the dump. A request for a dumpster was requested to haul the asphalt and concrete away. Susan Floor made a motion to get the dumpster and James Pell seconded the motion. A vote of 3-0 was made in favor.
- e) Bruce Shaw has his annual conference. Susan Floor made a motion to approve Bruce Shaw going to the conference and include the cost of the hotel, mileage, daily allotment of food of \$25.00 a day and the cost of the enrollment for the conference. James Pell seconded the motion and a vote in favor was cast 3-0.
- f) James Pell brought up the fact that the Festival Parade would have large tractors and trucks moving through the parade route and that we should cut down low hanging branches. James Pell had checked with a few places about buying an extending pruning chain saw. This would extend 12 feet and could be used to trim all of the trees in town that were hanging over the street. Susan Floor felt it would be safer if we were to hire this job out to a tree trimming

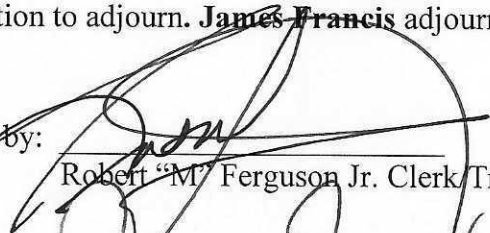
contractor. Susan Floor made a motion to spend up to \$1,000.00 to hire a tree trimmer to come in and do the pruning of the trees. James Pell seconded the motion and a vote of 3-0 was made in favor.

- g) Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. let the council know that the Sewer Certificate of Deposit will mature on the 15th of August. Last year the council had approved liquidating all Certificates of Deposit but because this particular CD had not matured it was left to mature. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. was going to First Farmer Bank and Trust and had prepared a letter for the council to sign liquidating the CD and to have the money transferred into the Town of Roann's bank account. The letter was later signed by each of the council members and by the Clerk-Treasurer.
- h) Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. informed that the Roann Town Hall will now become the election center for the Town of Roann. This will take place in 2014. Wabash County Clerk Elaine Martin had spoken to Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. and let him know there is money through grants available from Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) that would help to make the space more accessible to all voters. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. will put together plans and prices to submit to the Wabash county Clerk.
- i) Kristina Lynn presented the warranty deed for the property at the corner of Chippewa and State Road 16. The deed has been recorded and now belongs to the Town of Roann.

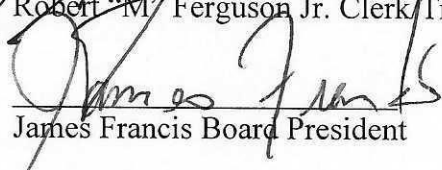
V. Adjournment

Susan Floor made a motion to adjourn. ~~James Francis~~ adjourned the meeting at **10:00 pm.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by:


Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. Clerk/Treasurer

Minutes approved by:


James Francis Board President