

Town of Roann

Meeting Minutes

10 September 2013

I. Call to order

James Francis called to order the regular meeting of the **Town of Roann** at **7:00 p.m.** on the **10th day of September** 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 31 citizens.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The Town Council read the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

IV. Open issues

- a) James Francis opened the public hearing for the 2014 Budget. James Francis explained the ground rules for a hearing and the floor was opened to anyone that wished to be heard. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. presented the 2014 Budget to the Town of Roann and read each line item in the budget and informed the Town Council where and how much the line items were either increased or decreased. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. also read the final figure for the General, MVH, Local Roads and Streets, Capital Improvement, Capital Fire and County Economic Development Income Tax. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. explained that the biggest increase came for the County Economic Development Income Tax because in the past it had never been budgeted. Ferguson thought it would help the community if the money was budgeted especially in the area of the sidewalk program. This would speed up the process and allow the work to be expedited. An amount of \$10,000.00 was budgeted in this area. Pearl Sturgill, 235 South Ohio, Roann asked how many checks do the Clerk-Treasurer and the town employees receive? Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. explained they receive one check bi-monthly but it comes from three separate areas. The money comes from the general budget, and the operating fund of both water and sewage. Pearl Sturgill asked what the salaries were for the town employees. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. explained that his pay was to be increased by \$2,000.00 in the general budget and \$1,500.00 from the water operating and \$1,500.00 from the sewage operating budget. This was \$1,000.00 less then was spoken about in the rate increase in each water and sewage. This way it could also be put in a five year program as was the rate increase. Pearl Sturgill stated that the Clerk-Treasurer was not the highest paid position in town and wanted to know about those figures. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. explained the Town Superintendent's pay was increased by 3.8% and would be increased by \$232.00 in the general fund, \$468.00 in the Water and \$745.00 in the Sewage. This would make the position of the Town Superintendents pay \$39,456.00 plus \$7,000.00 in an annual Health

Insurance Package. James Francis stated that in past meetings we had spoken about pay increases and could say with confidence that the increases that were proposed were defiantly in line or less than that of the statewide figures. Kay White, 405 South Church Street, Roann stated that she had been hearing "we don't have money to do this and we don't have money to do that but yet we have the money to give a raise. I don't understand that." James Francis stated that he was not sure where she heard that but, the Town Council did not say that nor was it something the Council endorsed. Luella Krom 6325 North 300 West Roann asked that the pay of the Clerk-Treasurer be repeated and then wanted to know how the Town Council could make it a full time position and dictate the hours of the Clerk-Treasurer. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. explained although the Town Council could not dictate the Clerk-Treasurer's hours, they could set the hours for the Utility Office. Luella Krom wanted to know what the purpose of having the Utility Office open more hours was if the File Clerk could not accept money. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. explained that he was not going to bond the file clerk and change the security policies that have been set in the Clerk-Treasurer office. Luella Krom had also asked if the Town Council was planning on hiring another person to work alongside the Town Superintendent. James Francis indicted that it was in the scope of the five years budget. It was then asked if the Town of Roann was budgeting for that position and Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. told her it has been in the budget since 2009 in the event a person was hired. The question was also asked if we were budgeting for the position for the night watchmen. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. said that position had been in the budget since 2005. Luella Krom then asked if we were going to hire both the Night watchman and the position to work alongside the Town Superintendent. Susan Floor said that it was a possibility within the five year plan so the town could have someone seasoned to take over that position in the event the Town Superintendent was to retire. Susan Floor also stated that the town wanted to be competitive with what we offered as a salary. Susan also said that we are not going out next April to hire someone but we will have the ability to do so with the money already in the budget. Kay White made the statement that since the Clerk-Treasurer also drives a school bus he can't get to work until 8:30am and leaves at 2:30pm how can that be considered full time. James Francis said the hours of the Clerk-Treasurer have been tracked and the Town Council was aware of the hours the Clerk-Treasurer was working. He also stated that the increase would change the candidate pool for the position and benefit the Town of Roann in the long run. Christy Brower 340 East Quincy, Roann, stated she had not heard any statement of a Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and wanted to know if that position has been eliminated. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. said that was his File Clerk position. Christy Brower asked what would happen if the Clerk-Treasurer was to leave for any reason or something was to happen to them. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. stated that the File Clerk would then take over until someone was appointed and that there were measures in place for that. Susan Floor said they would be able to learn the software through the software providers and learn the job the same way the present Clerk-Treasurer learned. Jerry Mills 140 West Walnut, Roann, stated that the Town Council should consider not giving pay raises just because the county gave raises to their employees and elected officials. He stated that many of the occupation he was familiar with for the last ten years, have not received a raise or are making less money today. James Francis said that the deciding factor for the salary

increase was the benchmark of the surrounding communities and the statewide salaries. James Francis stated that as a board they did take that in consideration and did their level best to cut as much as they could and remain competitive. Susan Floor made note that when the board was presented with the reconditions from Umbaugh that many things were taken into consideration and that salaries was a small amount when you consider what was going into capital improvement. James Francis mentioned that the goal of the board as the Town of Roann becomes palatable we could apply for grants as a community. Henry Becker 7475 West River Road Roann, wanted to know why we were adding employees to the payroll of the town specifically a helper for the Clerk-Treasurer, Town Superintendent and a Night Watchman. Becker said "Someone comes in and asks about a job as Night Watchman and we create a job for them." Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. explained the way it came about for a Night Watchman was through a Town Steering Committee Meeting where most of the people in the group wanted to see a Night Watchman hired for the town. James Francis also expressed that a community gathering of 30 people expressed the concern of having a Night Watchman. James Francis went on to say it is budgeted. To your point. Have we expended those monies for that? No. Are we going to? It hasn't been decided. Do we have an obligation to consider it because so many members of the community felt it was important? Yes. James Francis explained that the Town Council was trying to be responsible with the budget and that if we did not make the changes we would yield the kind of talent, qualifications that has gotten us to the point of not qualifying us for grants or any other monies that would offset the expenses that this town has to pay for. James Francis brought the public meeting to a close. Do to the going over the Salary Ordinance during the Public Meeting the line items were not restated and the first reading of Special Ordinance 2014-1 was completed. James Pell made a motion to approve the first reading of the 2014 Budget and Susan Floor seconded the motion and a vote – 3-0 in favor was made.

- b) Mitch Hansel from Bunnell Land Surveying and Engineering had presented two quotes to the Town Council. One quote was an engineering scope of services for ADA Compliance Plan and the other was an engineering scope of services for ADA Inventory. The difference between the two plans amounted to \$900.00. Susan Floor wanted to do a price check and to talk with other cities and town that have used the services. The Town Council tabled the matter until a study could be made.
- c) Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. took a few minutes to go over the increase of the Water and Sewage rates so that the citizens could look at their current bill and find out how that might affect their household.
- d) Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. reported that if we were to either hire a Night Watchman or a Town Marshall the liability insurance would not change from the original \$500.00 increase that was reported. At that time the matter of a Night Watchman was tabled.
- e) Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. and Bruce Shaw contacted Duke Energy about the security light at the playground. Duke Energy has come out and installed two new lights in the area.
- f) Kristina Lynn will have a Resolution for the charges to an outside company that would purchase water for the town. The matter was tabled until a Resolution was presented to the Town Council.

New Business

- a) Bruce Shaw had been exposed to poison ivy while in one of the water pits. Medical bills totaling \$91.08 were presented to the Town Council to decide if the Town of Roann would pay these bills or it would be a Workmen's Comp issue. Susan Floor made a motion to pay the accrual expenses of \$91.08 instead of turning it into Workman's Comp. James Pell seconded the motion and a vote of 3-0 was entered in favor.
- b) Bruce Shaw reported that the street repairs were to start Friday September 13th. This will last about four to five days. All of the milling would be done first then they would come in and do the filling of the milled out area the next few days.
- c) Susan Floor was interested in attending the IACT Conference in Indianapolis October 6-8. She was not sure if her schedule would allow but wanted to let the Council know of her intentions.
- d) Susan Floor thought after going through her notes from past meetings that ~~is~~ ^{it} would be unnecessary for the Council to receive the Aged Trial Balance report. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. explained that the reason they receive it was so that they can insure that the Clerk-Treasurer is putting liens on properties when the arrears get to 90 days. It was then decided that they would receive a locally generated report called Lowest Utility for Month report and the Aged Trial Balance report once at the end of a quarter.
- e) It was reported that there was a van sitting across a sidewalk on Ohio Street.
- f) Luella Krom presented a question to the Town Council if the town owned the log cabin. The town insures the log cabin and it was on the property of the town but there was not a deed to the cabin. She said there was a barn quilt on the front of the log cabin and wanted to know if permission was given to have that put on the front of the cabin. There was also word that there was plans to make changes to the interior of the log cabin and that some of the things that were in the cabin had been removed. The question was if there was an organization behind the changing of the Log Cabin. It was asked if the Town Council had given permission for anyone to make changes to the Log Cabin and the Council had not given any permission to make those changes. The Town Council has given permission to the Lions Club to replace windows and fix the roof, but they came to the Council and received permission before doing anything to the Log Cabin. Kristina Lynn will send a letter to ~~the~~ ^{the} party or parties we believe to have made changes to cease renovations until the Town Council has reviewed all plans. If that does not work we will take control of the Log Cabin and change locks.

V. Adjournment

James Pell made a motion to adjourn. **James Francis** adjourned the meeting at **8:32 pm.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by:


Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. Clerk/Treasurer

Minutes approved by:


James Francis Board President