

# **Town of Roann Meeting Minutes**

**October 21, 2024**

## **I. Call to Order**

**Jerry Nelson** called to order the Regular Board Meeting for the **Town of Roann** at **7:00 p.m. on the 21<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024** in **Roann Town Hall**.

## **II. Roll Call**

The following persons were present: Jerry Nelson, physically present, Neil Bever, physically present, Jeremy Fisher, physically absent, Robert "M" Ferguson Jr., physically present, Kristina Lynn, Tony Janeway, Damon Prater, Steve Hicks, Peggy Myers, and present is 19 citizens.

## **III. Approval of Minutes from last meeting**

The Town Council read the minutes from the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes on September 9, 2024, the minutes were approved as read.

The Town Council read the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on September 9, 2024, the minutes were approved as read.

### **Open issues**

- a) Neil Bever made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Special Ordinance 1-2025. Jerry Nelson seconded and the Town Council voted in favor 2-0.
- b) Citizen Jamie Francis brought to the Town Council a recommendation to form an advisory committee called "Greenway Committee" to help the Town Council do leg work and make recommendations to the Council. Jamie Francis advised a committee of 3 Town of Roann citizens: Don Reavis, Larry Rensberger, and himself would like the Town Councils approval on formation of a Greenway Committee. This charter presently is limited to the Railroad and Coop Property. Neil Bever made a motion to approve the formation of the Roann Greenway Advisory Committee and pursue information on the Railroad and Coop Property. Jerry Nelson seconded and the Town Council voted in favor 2-0.
- c) Kristina Lynn (Park Committee Chair) reported the Park Committee had a September meeting and questions were raised about what authorization is needed as we progress in regards to the park, pending this Council meeting. Kristina Lynn questioned what the Council would delegate to the committee so we could move forward with the park. Kristina Lynn questioned, "Where are we going and what does the Board want to see as the park is on town property?" Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. advised the Town

of Roann has received donations of \$418,643.17 with a donation coming in this week of \$41,726.49 totaling \$459,535.13 specifically given for the park project. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. added the cost of the 3 pavilions, 2 bathrooms, material, labor, plumbing and all the electrical according to the state specs that has already been approved is \$185,577.08. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. advised there are 3 different parcels at the park. One parcel is in Pawpaw Township that was left off the annexation along with some more property that needs to be annexed also, so it would be recommended to annex all at one time. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. advised the property where the old school had been was a 501C3 (Not For Profit) and had lost their charter, the town took over so the old school could be razed. The county went in half for liability and after the school was razed, the county donated the property back to the Town of Roann. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. went to the Wabash County Court House to get 2 of the 3 setbacks at 12' each removed. He stated the third 12' set back could be done at a later date to avoid confusion. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. shared he attended the County Drainage Board meeting on October 21, 2024, at 10:00 and the county has now approved the drainage which has been approved by our engineers. He stated the only two problems were the retention area which may be relocated as long as we do not change the minimum volume and maintained along with storm water ground water discharge. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. stated our engineer changed the verbiage and is sent back to the Drainage Board with changes made and ready to file. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. advised in 2019 the park area went from Green Space after the old school was razed to Park and Leisure approved by OCRA (Office of Community & Rural Affairs). Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. advised since 2023, the status on the park has been reported monthly, including the engineering cost of \$15,150.00 which has been brought to the Town Council, he shared how the park equipment was chosen after much research with a number of vendors and narrowed it down to two vendors and was presented to the Park Committee. After some discussion, and the Park Committee chose Sinclair Recreation, LLC as it has been in business since 1929 and is United States wide, local, great discounts and does the Community Build sending two people to help set up the park and save costs to the community. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. advised this company has free maintenance checklists so when the kids start playing on the playground equipment and family gatherings at the pavilions, the committee is in progress for safety and maintenance and just getting started. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. stated this will give "Community Ownership". He reported the cost for ground prep, cement work, parking lot, pavilions, men and women restrooms, playground equipment, fence, 32 lamps matching downtown, electrical, (parking lot/pavilions), picnic tables (40) and Park Sign (as per SHIPO) totaling \$774,331.08.

Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. shared a Patronicity grant is available by Indiana Housing and Community Development for 50/50, we raise the \$50,000 for them to match the \$50,000.00 required to be in the ground deadline in 12 months. Kristina Lynn requested from the council to approve the creation of the park committee and what decisions can be made without the board approval? Neil Bever made a motion to approve the creation of the park committee and the council see the park committee meeting minutes. Jerry Nelson seconded and the Town Council voted in favor 2-0. Kristina Lynn also asked the council, "Does the board approve of the plans in place?" Neil Bever requested the park committee to bring quotes before the Town Council Meetings.

## **New Business**

- a) Lions Club Joe Menna requested the town support for a use agreement to schedule the pull track owned by the Town of Roann for future events. Kristina Lynn will follow up on this.
- b) Citizen Rhonda Siders requested due to water standing on her property, could there be storm water drains installed? Tony Janeway advised it had been brought up and then dropped. Robert "M" Ferguson Jr. advised the Council ordered a study and then OCRA changed the rules. The Council will follow up on this.
- c) Merchant Sam Singh from Food Mart advised he has expanded 24/7 hours at the pump and looking into adding a canopy, adding a new larger tank and then paving, he would like to add a 2' x 4' sign on his property for advertisement. Mr. Singh requested the support of the Town of Roann Council and community.
- d) Steve Hicks shared the downtown Chippewa street will be closed on November 16, 2024, from 1:30 until the Roann Community Heritage, Inc. event is completed.
- e) Steve Hicks requested from the Council the authority to sign for a CAD System of \$2,498.07 along with an annual subscription of \$211.20 pending county approval. Steve Hicks advised if the county does not approve the CAD System, then it will not be purchased. Neil Bever made a motion to approve the CAD System pending county approval of \$2,498.04 and an annual subscription of \$211.20. Jerry Nelson seconded and the Town Council voted in favor 2-0.

## **IV. Adjournment**

Jerry Nelson adjourned the meeting at **8:40 p.m.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by:  
Robert "M" Ferguson Jr., IAMC, IAMCA, CMC, CMO, Clerk/Treasurer

Minutes approved by:



Jerry Nelson, Council President

RMFJ/pm