

Council Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jill Gross, Shelly Krueger, Timothy Croy and Amanda Yaprak

Members Absent: Andrew Grossnickle

Employees Present: Josh Shepherd, Keaton Schopf

Guests: Jackie Gorski (Times Union), Ross Hagen (Baker Tilly)

6:30 PM Call to Order

Timothy motions to approve January 3rd and January 11th meeting minutes. Shelly second. Pass.

Guests:

Wastewater Utility Study - Ross from Baker Tilly presented his findings from the study. He stated he analyzed the receipts and disbursements along with a forecasted increase in operating expenses, wages, and projected needs within the next five years. The conclusion was an increase of 41.18% increase across the board. Ross provided a comparison of other similar towns and stated the increase can be broken into phases while still satisfying our bondholder agreement.

Capital Assets – Amanda asked Ross to clarify the future requirements for capital assets. Ross stated the State Board of Accounts has increased their focus on capital assets and depreciation and anticipates an audit finding if the capital assets are not up to date. Amanda requested the council consider hiring Baker Tilly to help get the capital assets up to date and stated the project can be stretched through multiple budget years, if needed.

Old Business:

Council President – Jill reminded the council that nomination of council president was missed at January's meeting. Shelly motions to nominate Jill as council president. Timothy second. No other discussion. Pass.

Employee Health Insurance – Amanda informed the council that the town employees qualified for IPEP group health insurance. All employees met with Allan Miricle for a Q&A and to discuss insurance options. The result was improved health, vision, and dental insurance. Amanda stated an annual savings of \$12,000 this year.

Railroad Tracks – Shelly received an email from Derek, a Norfolk representative, that stated the new track supervisor is aware and will address the issue when asphalt becomes available. No timeline identified. Shelly provided a copy of the email for reference.

CCMG Paving 2 – Council received the bid recommendation from James Emans from the January 20th bid opening. Shelly motions to award the contract of \$266,968.50 to Phend & Brown. Jill Second. Shelly motions to allow Jill to sign the contract when received. Timothy second. Pass. Amanda also asked Jill to sign the INDOT notification of award and request for funds letter.

Shop Generator – Josh updated the council that the generator is operational, however there is an issue with it continuously running and not shutting off. D&D Electric is working on the issues.

Dump Truck – Josh updated the council the truck bed is available but pending receipt of the hydraulics system.

New Business:

KEDCO – Timothy will be meeting with KEDCO and Greg Fitzloff for economic development in Mentone. Date to be determined.

Easter Egg Hunt – Timothy reminds the community that the Chamber of Commerce Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 30th, at 10:00 AM

Capital Assets – Amanda asks the council to consider hiring Baker Tilly to investigate capital assets and depreciation. She recommended a cap of \$7,000 for this year's budget expenses. Jill motions to set a cap of \$7,000 for Baker Tilly to work on the town's capital assets. Timothy second. Pass.

Training – Keaton informed the council that he will be attending a three-day training in Warsaw. The training will consist of criminal investigation, interrogation, and interviews.

Tahoe Incident – Keaton stated he had to file a claim with insurance for some damage to the Tahoe during an arrest. Restitution charges will be filed through the prosecutor's office. He provided a repair quote from Crouse for approximately \$2,600.

PD Deputy – Keaton requested the council consider options for hiring a deputy vs part time or the county for 2025. He stated he is bringing up the subject for consideration now because he will be at the academy during budget season. Keaton advised any new hire would be under contract.

Park 24" Tile – Josh thanked Kosciusko County and L.I. Excavating for fixing the 24" tile at the park.

Tap Fees – Josh requested the council consider increasing the water and sewer tap fees. Amanda will email the current ordinance to Andrew for review. Josh will provide guidance on what a tap fee should be.

Lawn Mower – Josh reminded the council that he has two lawn mowers that need to be replaced. He will reach out for quotes and hopes for a decision in March for at least one. He recommends keeping an old mower as a backup.

Shelly motions to accept claims. Timothy second. Pass.

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 6th at 6:30 PM.

Shelly motions to adjourn. Jill second. Pass.

Council President _____ Attest: Clerk-Treasurer _____
Jill Gross Amanda Yaprak