

Town of Russiaville, Indiana  
Regular Council Meeting  
Town Hall  
March 15, 2021

Council Present – Jeff Lipinski, Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Myrna Claar, and Greg Landrum.

Corbin King, town attorney, was also present.

Jeff Lipinski opened the meeting.

Kent Milburn said prayer. Pat Reel led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from February 2021 and special meeting in March were approved.

Plan Commission – Megan Reel said there were 2 fence permits written.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No one present to report.

TIF Board – No one present to report

Russiaville Historical Society – Don Parvin said Dave Kieser applied for the Heritage Support Grant and we received an invitation to submit a full proposal, so maybe we will get funding this time.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present, and her report is as follows:

#### **Park and Tree Board March Report to the Town Council**

1. We have had 10 more pavers sold to put in circle. Reba will be taking them soon to be engraved.
2. We got two estimates for the sand volleyball court. Because of the location we chose, we have possible water issues. The first estimate was from Dave Cole which included a drain as he said we would need it or we would be fighting a dammed-up mess. This included running a drain to tie into an existing drain

West of the property. His estimate was for \$38,628. The second estimate was from Davidson which Jason Buch was preparing. He has not gotten back to me yet but said he was working on it. He was not including a drain, but acknowledged it would be a problem where we had said we wanted it located.

3. We have decided to send out a survey for the town residents as we need it for our five-year plan which is due this year. At that time, we can get a better idea of what the residents want to see in their community.
4. There will be a committee meeting consisting of Erica Parvin, Beth Davis and Jill Newby to discuss fundraising for the shelter and playground. Rick Homkes did provide a site we can go to apply for a donation from Solidarity Federal Credit Union. This is going to be our main focus this year.
5. The Park and Tree Board decided on a name for the iron wheel sculpture.

### **IRON WHEELS**

#### **“Honoring Russiaville’s Farming Heritage”**

6. Jill met with three contractors to get an estimate for the circle where the engraved pavers and a bench will go. So far, we have not received an estimate back from them.
7. The modern sculpture of the crane is ready to go and will be installed when the weather gets a little warmer. The bill for supplies, \$500, which was paid from the Community Foundation Grant was sent to Megan. The artist donated his time.
8. The old merry go round/caterpillar is still in the planning stages. It is at Adam Shepherd’s house and he is getting married this coming Saturday, so he has more important things going on right now.
9. Community Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> with Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> as the rain date. Because of Covid, we will only be working outside for Senior Citizens homes, but can still indoor projects for businesses or churches. Also because of Covid, we will be splitting the students up between the Community Center and the Lions Club for lunch. Mr. McCracken did not want them in such close quarters in one building. Both places have been reserved.
10. On behalf of the Arbor Day Foundation, congratulations on earning recognition as a 2020 Tree City USA. Residents of your community should be proud to live in a place that makes the planting and care of trees a priority. Two promotional items are being prepared for your community help publicize your recognition. This includes a recognition letter and press release sent directly to your Mayor when your recognition materials are

mailed out. **Your recognition materials will be shipped to your state coordinator to be distributed to you on or before your state's Arbor Day.** Please reach out to them with any questions about when and how you will be receiving your materials.

11. The Russiaville Library is having an Arbor Day program on Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>. The Park Board will help out if needed. This will also help with our Tree City status.
12. I heard through the grapevine that we are getting a new drinking fountain at Russiaville Town Park which should be a very nice addition.

Jill Newby added to this by saying she thinks maybe we should not do the sand volleyball court, it is just too costly, and she doesn't want there to be issues with it if there is no drain put in with it.

Jill is in need of projects for senior/community day if anyone has anything.

Jeff Lipinski said the drinking fountain project was made through Howard County Commissioner Paul Wyman, thank you to him for partnering with us for projects such as these.

Pat Reel asked if the volleyball court would get used a lot. Jill Newby said she did not know, but for the cost and the cost to do it right, the money would be better spent on a pavilion and someone could bring a volleyball net from home and set it up to play and have lunch etc. Council agreed with that.

Don Parvin said there is a grant that was talked about in February that is in the works for alley paving and a pavilion. Hopefully we get it.

Streets and Wastewater – Craig Thompson was present with a report. Don Parvin brought attention to a paper that Craig had included that showed the roads that had been paved since 2012. \$950,964.24 has been spent on roads partially with grants. We didn't apply for the CCMG money this year as our roads are in pretty good shape now. The council thanked Craig in his efforts in doing all the work that goes along with getting the grant money, and preparing for the roads to be paved.

Don Parvin brought up the project that was talked about last year on Chandler Street. Don has talked to Jeff Davidson about this and he stated he would honor the price he quoted last year for the project of \$29,400.00. Myrna Claar made a motion to allow the Chandler Street project to be done by Davidson Excavating

for \$29,400.00. Greg Landrum seconded. Pat Reel abstained. The motion carried with Myrna, Greg, and Don voting for passage.

Don Parvin said on the sides of Fourth St. needs filled in like was done on Carter Street. He said he is waiting on pricing. Council all agreed it would be fine and told Don to do it.

Marshal's Dept. – Josh Fulkerson was present and gave a written report. Josh stated we are still waiting on the insurance for the Tahoe repairs. Josh said they had started testing the tornado sirens, they will go off every Sunday at 3pm through the season. They all work. Jeff Lipinski asked about training for the weather. Josh said he had just done a training on it and he knew that Carl had in the past but would make sure he was up to date with it.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel had written reports. Megan stated that the State Board of Accounts has come out and said everyone had to change their fund numbers to what they wanted them to be. She drew attention to the fund report from last month versus this month, so they could see what numbers had changed.

Dave Kieser – Jeff Lipinski said he had signed several papers for the RBDG grant application for the South Union Sidewalk Project. Megan Reel also had a Resolution authorizing the submittal of the Rural Business Development Grant application. Resolution # 2021-03. Don Parvin made a motion to accept Resolution # 2021-03. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Extra Street Lighting – Don Parvin had estimated from Duke Energy for the street lighting. He just got this today. This is for 20 additional street light around Russiaville. This will cost \$236.59 extra per month with a one-time payment of \$7,030.18, or we can spread the \$7,030.18 over the next 7 years. Don Parvin would like to table this to get clarification on a few things before we agree to this. Jeff Lipinski asked if this was the new lights on State Rd 26. Don Parvin said no, this has nothing to do with that. We are still waiting on a grant that can help fund that project. This is something we went out and did on our own and didn't have to depend on someone else and grant money.

Personnel Policy – Jeff Lipinski said the council met on March 8, 2021 and got through ½ of the policy. We will schedule another meeting soon to go over more of/the rest of the policy. This will be tabled again until it is done.

Road Repairs and Alleys – Don Parvin said there is a grant that we are trying to get to help fund this project that is 85/15 match. This includes a 20x30 shelter/pavilion. This is the grant that was discussed during the park and tree board section of these minutes.

Resolution 2021-02 – This is a resolution to transfer money from the Ho. Co. Loan Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$4,203.82. Don Parvin made a motion to accept the resolution and transfer the \$4,203.82 from Ho. Co. Loan Fund to the General Fund. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

EMA Mutual Aid Agreement – This is the standard agreement between EMA and the Town of Russiaville as it has been in years past. Greg Landrum asked what this was for. Jeff Lipinski said they help with several different things like roads being blocked off for parades, trees down, bad weather, fires, wrecks, etc. Pat Reel made a motion to accept the agreement for 2021. Don Parvin seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Kent Milburn had a couple of concerns. There are some vehicles that are parked and have been parked for a long time with no license plates and are looking bad. Also, there are a few houses around with “stuff” that is just junky looking. He wanted to know if there could be something done with these. Don Parvin said we have ordinances on these things. Marshal Fulkerson took notes on the specific places and said he would look into these and take care of it.

Harold Vincent was present and just came to see how the Russiaville meeting flows.

Corbin King said the Ricci’s and Hale’s did not end up going to court. And therefore, Jeff did not have to testify. He is not sure if we will hear from this matter again.

Myrna Claar told Corbin that she and Megan and Lexi Hunt had met about the Farmer's Market. She asked if Corbin would look at the contract for the vendors, in case there was something we needed to do special for it. Corbin said yes, there are a few things that should be in it and he would. Don Parvin asked about the insurance. Megan Reel said she is waiting to hear back from the insurance agent on how we should do this, whether it be through us or through each vendor separately.

Megan Reel said Doug Edison, Little League president, called and told her they were going to work on cleaning up behind the press box. He was told the town asked about it some time ago.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, and no more comments from council or guests, the claims were presented and approved. Don Parvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Myrna Claar seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Jeff Lipinski, President

Megan Reel, Clerk-Treasurer