

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Special Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall - 5:00 pm
March 20, 2023

Council Present – Don Parvin, Pat Reel, Myrna Claar, Greg Landrum, and Jake Gibson

Don Parvin opened the meeting.

Pat Reel said he had met with Jada Sceggell about her Eagle Scout project that was presented in the past, for raised beds to be placed on the south east side of the town hall. They would still like to do the project beginning in the spring of 2023. Don Parvin was concerned about the maintenance of this in the future. Pat said he would take care of it.

Don Parvin said that he and Megan had met with Dave Kieser on March 16th about the interurban building and construction costs for phase I and II of the project. We need to vote on accepting Monroe Construction Group, LLC to do the work. They were the low bid. Don said that Dave had suggested accepting the base bid of \$54,906.00 plus Alternate #1 for the electrical work of \$2,650.00, for a total of \$57,556.00. The grant with our match it \$57,500.00, therefore, we will need to come up with \$56.00 to do this much. Dave had left a floor plan outlining the work that would be done with the base bid, with omissions of 6, 7, and 12 at this time. The phase II budget is about \$124,000.00, Dave has applied for a grant of \$99,000.00 for this with our local match of \$25,000.00. We should know if we will get this grant in April. Pat Reel made a motion to accept Monroe Construction Group, LLC base bid and alternate #1 as discussed for a total of \$57,556.00. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Don Parvin said the 14 new lights are up on Main Street and the boring and connections should be done this week. The new lights have a 3k illumination bulb, and are a different color than the previous ones put up. Don said he had spoken to Josh Marion from Duke Energy, who said that they would be a bit different as the existing ones are 4k. Don felt they should all be the same, and

asked what the board thought. After some discussion, they agreed and Pat Reel made a motion to have them change the new bulbs to match the existing one that are the 4k. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Myrna, Greg, and Jake voting for passage.

Don Parvin said he had talked to Duke Energy about the change out of the old street lights to LED bulbs and they are supposed to start this the week of March 27, 2023.

Jake Gibson said he had talked to Landen Bartley. He would like to start off by saying Russiaville did a great job with the recent house fire, adding from the time they got the page to when there was water being put on the fire was 7 minutes. That is pretty awesome. Jake talked to the them about communication, and he said that Landen told him that he would be fine with sending a quarterly report. Jake Gibson made a motion to allow the fire department contract for \$20,000.00 for 2023. Pat Reel seconded. Myrna Claar asked about what would be on the quarterly report. Jake said, training hours, run reports, calls, etc. Myrna asked about operation, Pat Reel broke in saying as far as their finances, they are their own business, and we are just contracting with them and that is not something we need to see. Myrna said she asked because they originally asked for more money and was wanting to know why they asked for it. Pat said going forward as discussed at the previous meeting, they need to come to us at budget time and explain why they would need extra money for that next year, and then we would see if we could do it after our budget process and they could make their contract accordingly. Jake said with the communication now between himself and the fire department hopefully all this would go better. The motion carried with Jake, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Ned Sutherland said there was an article in the paper today about volunteer fire departments.

Don Parvin said he is waiting on Corbin King to do a purchase agreement with Amy Clements. There were 2 appraisals done, one for \$18,500.00 and the other for \$18,095.00. The town is purchasing her property for \$15,000.00 plus closing costs. We cannot do anything on the property until closing and then she will have 30 days to get what property she wants out. We are still waiting for the survey to be done. Don said he knows there were several different things this board was

thinking about for this property, we don't need to be in a big hurry but be thinking about this.

Don Parvin said the property that Bob Rutherford would like to purchase by the old New London wastewater plant site had been appraised. There were 2 appraisals done, one for \$1,750.00 and the other for \$1,835.00. We are still waiting for the survey to be done. Corbin King is working to determine what we have to do, if we have to have public meeting, etc. Don said Bob agreed to pay for the survey and appraisals and the land according to what is agreed upon with what has to be done according to the rules.

Don Parvin said that Rick Homkes contacted him saying that he thinks the ash tree in the southeast corner of the Russiaville Town Park needs to come down. Don said he talked to Rice Tree Company, and they said they could take it down and grind the stump for \$1,100.00. Don said that Mark Rice also advised that it would not be long and the other ash tree on the north side of the park would need to come down as well. Rice would do both trees and grind the stumps for \$2,000.00. Pat Reel reminded that we had these trees treated for ash boar maybe 4 years ago, and it just prolonged the inevitable he felt. Pat Reel made a motion to take both ash trees that need to come down in the park, down. He added with it dying he thinks the park is not a good place for falling limbs, it is a safety concern. Don agreed saying he had to have some big limbs trimmed out of them last year. Jake Gibson seconded the motion. Greg Landrum said it is a big tree and just like in his yard, limbs fall out but it may outlive him. Pat said but his yard was not a park and there were not kids playing under them all the time. Greg agreed. Greg Landrum opposed the motion. The motion carried with Pat, Jake, and Myrna voting for passage.

Jill Newby asked if they could replace the trees after to 2 being talked about were removed out the of the tree and tree maintenance fund. Greg Landrum made a motion to replace the trees in the park. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Greg, Pat, Myrna, and Jake voting for passage.

Don Parvin gave the board a list of 10 projects for 2023. Don asked if they were okay with them, as we need to get them completed before we make any more commitments. The board agreed.

Myrna Claar asked if they needed to keep working on the bus stop shelters as school was almost out for this year. Don said it was their call. Jake Gibson said he had contacted Barrett Bates at Western about the shelters and if there were certain places, they should be put for future bus stops. Pat Reel said the place that will most likely never change as a bus stop would be the trailer park. Myrna Claar said she had talked to the manager and his boss and they said they would probably be fine with it but they would like a diagram of how it would be and what it would be like. She had told them absolutely everything would be done like that. Jake and Myrna will continue to work on the shelters.

Jill Newby said she and Janna Hyman had met with Emerald Blankenship at the Community Foundation about a grant for the Community Center inclusive playground and shelter. They are working on an online grant for this, so it can be present to the Community Foundation board. They are also going to try to get a DNR grant for this. They need half the money for the project of about \$500,000.00 before they can even apply for the DNR grant. They would like to add a unisex bathroom to the project saying that they feel it is necessary to have them. There is a prefab sort they are looking into and they would like to have the boards thoughts. Pat Reel and Greg Landrum thought that a bathroom was needed out there. Myrna Claar and Jake Gibson thought it was a good idea but were concerned about adding to the project cost. Jake asked about other grants. Jill said they are trying to get some bigger money at this time, whether it is just money or grants. There was a lot of discussion on the pros and cons of the bathrooms. Don Parvin asked them to compare the prefab bathroom to actual built bathrooms. Jill said they would work on the bathroom designs and costs.

Greg Landrum said he had got a quote just to see what it would cost to insulate the maintenance building behind the town hall with 2" spray foam. The quote was for \$10,034.00. He said he was thinking about this after the new heater was put in and it just runs and the heat basically just goes out with no insulation. He knows there is not money for this at this time but wanted to throw this information out there to have.

Don Parvin wanted to make the board aware that it was brought to his attention that on social media there was a comment made about the fire hydrants at the

recent house fire. It was stated that Indiana American Water had put in new fire hydrants which was not true. The town and the fire department, as a team in 2005, went around the town and determined where to put 14 new fire hydrants and they were installed by the Town of Russiaville when the water plant was upgraded. The only other new ones put in were by Dollar General when they built the store. Don also reminded the board to please not comment on social media posts.

There being no further business to discuss Pat Reel made a motion to adjourn at 6:00 pm. Jake Gibson seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Don Parvin, President

Megan Reel, Clerk-Treasurer