

Town of Russiaville, Indiana  
Regular Council Meeting  
Town Hall  
February 27, 2023

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

Corbin King, the town's attorney was also present.

Myrna said a prayer, and Greg Landrum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the January meeting and a special meeting on January 30, 2023 were approved.

The Outstanding Community Service Award for 2022 was given to Marcia Talbert. Myrna Claar recognized Marcia's ministry to our town and its residents. Marcia has made countless visits to our residents in nursing homes, sent thousands of cards to people over the years, and cares about our people in this town. Marcia is one of the icons of Russiaville, always sporting her beautiful smile, and she truly makes our town a better place. Marcia said she truly loves doing these things for people. She has lived here 85 years. She added that her husband Jack Talbert had been on the first town board that Russiaville ever had, and had done many things along side of her. Marcia said these things the we all do we don't need recognition for, we do it because we love people, we love God, and we love you.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel gave written reports. Megan added that she had submitted the Annual Financial Report for 2022, and was working on getting 2022 put away.

Streets/Wastewater – Craig Thompson was present and gave a written report. Don Parvin said there was a sewer issue in Honey Creek Hills. There is a line between 2 houses that has too many bellies in it and needs to be repaired. Craig said there wasn't anything backed up on our end. The lateral is just so long. Jake Gibson made a motion to get it fixed. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Myrna, Pat, and Greg voting for passage.

Greg Landrum asked if we were going to hire summer help. Council asked Craig Thompson. He said yes, if Benton Kanable is interested again this year that would be fine. Jake Gibson made a motion to have Benton help again this summer if he could. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Pat, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Marshal's Dept. – A written report was given.

EMA Advisory – No business to report.

Fire Department – Don Parvin appointed Jake Gibson as an advisory/go between with the council and the fire department.

Landen Bartley was present to discuss the fire contract for 2023. They originally sent us a contract with an amount of \$25,000.00 for 2023. We sent them back a contract with a new amount of \$17,000.00, being that our appropriation started at \$20,000.00 and then we had to cut all our budget line items this year. Landen said they were not good with \$17,000.00, as everything is going up including their run numbers. Landen had stats from 2005 when they were receiving \$17,600.00. They had 62 calls for service, diesel \$1.96 per/gal, and they had 18 members. For 2022, They received \$20,000.00 from the town. They had 159 calls for service, diesel fuel was \$4.39 per/gal, and they have 28 members. In 2019, they also took over the Russiaville Ambulance service as it was not self-sustainable any longer. With this they got 2 ambulances that were extremely outdated, and under-maintained. He stated they got debt and headaches from taking on the ambulance service. Landen said when he asked for the \$25,000.00, he felt there should be some negotiations and there was not. Don Parvin said in 2019 when the budget was increased to \$20,000.00 it was agreed upon that the council would receive reports on how it was going with the ambulance being added and how they were making it. Don also said, the council has a meeting every month and this was the first time since the increase to \$20,000.00 that someone had even been at a meeting with information from the fire department. This is why Don has asked Jake to be the go between so that there is a better relationship with the fire department. Don said the town cannot pay any more than is appropriated, adding that the police department was cut by \$8,500.00 for 2023. Landen said, in regards to Don saying there was an agreement about reports, that is not in the contract. There is nothing in the contract that states that someone

from the fire department has to attend the council meetings. Don said he would just like a report or some information. Landen said that was not in the contract. Don asked, to get any information from them it had to be in the contract. Landen said yes, that is what a contract is for. Landen added that they were volunteers, so for him to ask someone to come down here every month to sit in a meeting and tell the council what their runs are and stuff that can get pretty taxing because a lot of people are busy and he would have to constantly be rotating and delegating someone to do this. Don said all you have to do is submit a report, they draw money from the town, there should be a report of how they are doing each month. Myrna asked how many ambulance/EMT's they have. Landen said 8. She asked when they were available. Landen said they have a schedule during the week with an EMT and a tech in the evenings, but during the day it is about impossible for the day time to have any designated coverage. Landen did say that when it comes to participation and people willing to give back to the community, Russiaville is above and beyond any other department in this county.

Volunteering is a dying breed. Myrna Claar asked if it was possible to get a report monthly like we do from the police department. Pat said since we have Jake willing to be the go between, that may help things. Landen said they were there for training/meeting every Tuesday. Jake said he would like to come once a month to the fire department meeting, saying he did see the boards issue and also Landen's. Jake asked if they were putting a lot of money into them, why did they have two. Landen said it has worked out for them to exchange services with Howard Community Hospital. They have been stricken with times that an ambulance has been down or broken, and Landen said he trades them training, supplies, or borrowing the fire departments ambulance.

Don Parvin said he had volunteered for the fire department and ambulance and he knows.....Landen interjected that a lot had changed since then, back before color TV. It's been a long time, don't give me that I volunteered, a lot has changed since then. Don Parvin said that is very insulting to him and he did not appreciate Landen's comment. Don said he was trying to agree with him that volunteerism is, well, it is hard to get people to volunteer anymore. It hard to get people to commit to the training it takes to be a firefighter nowadays. Don said we cannot give more than was appropriated. Landen asked, when the budget was set, did we only appropriate \$17,000.00 for the fire department. Don said we requested \$20,000.00 like before, but we had to go back and cut the budget after sent it for approval.

Greg Landrum said we need a fire department contract, and he has sat here and listened to everything and feels that just some communication would smooth a lot of things out. Landen said in regards to the contract, he feels that it should be started/negotiated in April or May and it should be agreed upon prior to the final reading and approval of the town's budget. Don Parvin said that was the first time he had heard that Landen had requested this. Landen said he had talked to Jeff about it multiple times. Pat Reel said this sounds like a good idea to him. Don and the council agreed. Landen said he would like to have at least the \$20,000.00, same as last year. Jake Gibson asked if we could take it under advisement at this time, and he would come to their meeting and talk about it some. Pat Reel said he would be ok with the \$20,000.00 for this year, and then sit down and talk about it this spring and look at it for 2024. Myrna Claar made a motion to meet with fire department and work this out. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Myrna, Pat, Greg, and Jake voting for passage.

Attorney Comments – Corbin King said Roger Carter's lease agreement was in order and taken care of.

Corbin will deal with the Humane Society contract adjustments that were proposed.

Corbin is still working on the alcohol wording for the community center agreement.

Corbin said we are waiting on the survey on the property in New London that Mr. Rutherford would like, we will also need 2 appraisals. There will have to be a public hearing and put it up for bid. There could be an exception, it will matter what the appraisals come in at. Greg Landrum made a motion to get this appraised. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Greg, Jake, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

Don Parvin said he had talked to Amy Clements and asked the council what they thought about buying the property at 3949 S. 775 W. Greg Landrum made a motion to buy the property. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Greg, Myrna, Pat, and Jake voting for passage. Myrna Claar made a motion to have the property at 3949 S. 775 W. surveyed and appraised. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Myrna, Pat, Greg, and Jake voting for passage.

Health Department – Rick Homkes was present and said there will be CPR training on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Lions Club.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable was present and said he had no new business .

Board of Zoning Appeals – Roger Waddell said there was no new business.

TIF Board – Rick Homkes said he and Craig met with J & J Electric and Huston Electric at the community center for them to quote putting a generator in. They will meet with Midwest Generator also for a quote.

Rick said they had met with Clifford Signs about the “Russiaville” signs. Still working on this.

Historical Society – Nothing new to report.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present and said they had set a date of May 16<sup>th</sup> for community/senior day, with a rain date of May 17<sup>th</sup>. Jill said community day has really evolved over the years, there used to be just a few volunteers and Jill and her daughter. Now, they have a lot more people involved in this, including the Principal and Superintendent. They are in need of projects, so please let Jill know of anything that needs to be done.

The Park Board is still working on fundraising for the playground and shelter, they are trying to work on some presentations to corporations.

Dave Kieser – Don Parvin said the lighting on Main Street is getting ready to start. The LED project hopefully will start in April, they are still waiting on materials. The Interurban project is still being worked on. Dave is still working on the wastewater project. Hopefully the sidewalk project will be bid soon.

Honey Creek ditch –Don said we are waiting on a quote from Rice Tree Company.

Locks at the Interurban had been previously discussed, and they are being changed.

Farmer’s Market – Lexi Hunt was present to make sure it is ok the market can be held in the lot behind the town hall on the second Sunday of the month from June 11<sup>th</sup> – October 8<sup>th</sup>. Jake Gibson asked if the library helped with the market. Lexi said yes that Lori comes and helps a lot with the kids programming that they do. Pat Reel made a motion to let them use the lot again this year, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a

row. Jake Gibson seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Jake, Myrna, and Greg voting for passage.

Parking on North Street – Greg Landrum said this was brought to him by someone in town, that it is hard to turn onto North Street from Union when there are cars parked on the southside of the road. Don said we have hashed this out before, we have painted/marked back the regulation length from the corner for people to park. Myrna Claar asked if they were parking in the painted yellow area. Greg said they may be a little. After some further discussion Pat Reel made a motion to leave the parking ordinance as it is. Myrna Claar seconded. Greg Landrum abstained. The motion carried with Pat, Myrna, and Jake voting for passage.

EMA Agreement – This is the yearly mutual aid agreement. Jake Gibson made a motion to accept the agreement. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Jake, Greg, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

Resolution 2023-02 authorizing RBDG (Rural Business Development Grant) application submission. This is for the application of the RBDG grant for the Interurban project. Myrna Claar made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-02. Greg Landrum seconded, and the motion carried with Myrna, Greg, Pat, and Jake voting for passage.

Jake Gibson said he had gotten a quote for the bus stop shelters. For a 5x10 it is \$7,100.00. There are different sizes. This price is without concrete. This is out of Michigan, if we pick them up it would save on shipping. There may be grants to be able to get these. Don asked them to decide where they would like them to be put, how many we need, and if the budget will allow if we can't get a grant. Also, check with the school to see if there is a need in certain places, and check with the trailer park to make sure they would be willing to allow this. Landen Bartley said there are some of these at the wastewater plant in Kokomo. Jake said he had reached out to them, but hadn't received a call back yet. Landen said he would be there in the next few days; he would check with them as well. Jake and Myrna will keep working on this.

Ned Sutherland was present and said the circus at Western on February 25<sup>th</sup> to benefit Turnabout and Narrow Gate Horse Ranch was a big hit. There were a lot of people who came out to have fun and support these 2 ministries.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, the claims, receipts, payrolls, bank recs, and time sheets were presented and approved. Pat Reel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Greg Landrum seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Don Parvin, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer