

Town of Russiaville, Indiana  
Public Hearing on Wastewater Rate Increase  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
July 21, 2014

President Jeff Lipinski opened the Public Hearing on a Wastewater Rate Increase at 7:00 p.m. on July 21, 2014. Also present for the Council were Vice President Don Parvin, Council Members Cindy Aeschliman, Rob Hewitt, Greg Landrum and Town Attorney Corbin King. Jeff Lipinski asked for comments from the Council. Cindy Aeschliman stated that the wastewater rates need to increase significantly and if the vote on the November referendum is to keep our water facility we will also need to have a sizable rate increase in the water rates. Don Parvin state we are operating with a deficit and the utilities need to be self sustaining. They need to be run as a business and carry their proper share of insurance, wage and benefit costs which they are currently not doing. This will allow the additional funding currently being spent out of Town Funds to be used for what is needed, for example, on our streets. Jeff Lipinski talked about percentage of increase and the number of customers and the amount a rate increase of \$6 to \$8 per month per customer would bring in. Greg Landrum stated we are in this situation because we have done heart and head business operations. Jeff Condo was present to express his concern at the lack of residents present at the meeting. He stated he believed the fairest way is to base rate increase on consumption. If you can't pay another \$20 a month you may need to give up some nonessentials. Bottled water was one suggestion. Don stated that our profit margin should be at least 10%. Jeff Lipinski stated this is just the first step in the process and there will more information and meetings forthcoming. There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

The Regular Meeting was opened with prayer by Kent Milburn. Copies of minutes are not available because of a glitch in the printer. It was noted that another permit had been issued for a house in Honey Creek Hills.

Rick Homkes stated that the trees planted at the community center through the IDNR Grant are being watered and all were living. The grant report was sent in last week and an application for a grant to complete the circle in front of the property was in progress. Two Purdue students of earth science sustainability who have worked very hard on a survey of all the trees on town property and easements were present. Jessica and Cara surveyed nine sights and all of the street easements identifying each tree by scientific and regular name, measuring the diameter and noting the condition and location. They noted that 3% were in fair condition and 4% in poor condition with the remaining 93% in good condition. We have thirty eight species of trees and a total of three hundred twenty six trees on town property. The dollar value of replacing these trees is estimated at \$264,178. This was done as part of the grant that enabled the town to plant the trees at the park area on the north side of town. Sean Lykins was responsible for putting all this information into a file that can be accessed by the Town to maintain and update records on a consistent basis. The hard work of the Purdue Students and the Tree and Park Board is very much appreciated and the town will reap the benefits for many years to come.

Rhiannon Thompson was present to discuss some problems at the park that need to be addressed. After a short discussion it was determined that Greg Landrum will meet with Jason Lawson and Rhiannon to see what is needed concerning replacement and repair. Don Parvin stated he has nine tables coming for the park, pavilion and community center. There are barricades to be delivered from the County next Tuesday. The Carnival will be coming in next week and after a short discussion it was determined that streets will be closed as needed. Rhiannon has a person that has offered to spray the weeds. This was approved and the supplies and equipment will be available when needed.

A. J. Humerickhouse, our Wastewater Operator, reported that the plant is running well. Matt Armstrong has been showing him around. The skag mower is in for repair and the Kubota mower has a bent deck and Zack Parvin has had to weld on two broke wheels. A water line on Seward and Grant was broken and fixed. The council approved the removal of the necessary sludge from the tanks at the wastewater plant. Davidson Excavating was given approval on motion made by Don Parvin and second by Rob Hewitt to make the necessary repairs to a drainage ditch on Chandler Street. Greg Landrum abstained. The estimate for the repairs is \$1200. More patching will be done next week. Hydrants will be flushed the week of August 18. Repairs to South Union pipe were discussed. It was noted that Matt has the Duke Energy work order. Jr. O'Neal will repair the damaged curb at Lisa King's and the sidewalk at Pam Gullion's. It was noted that the railroad property is in bad shape. The trees at the interurban need to be trimmed or removed and the dead tree at the town hall needs to be removed. Don would like to see the flags up on Main Street.

Roger Waddell presented the Marshal's Report. Many arrests on drug and narcotic charges have been made by Kokomo, Howard County and Russiaville. A meth lab was eliminated through the efforts of the Howard Co Drug Task Force and the Co. Kayos, Russiaville's drug Canine, has been very busy and demonstrated his value once again. Jeff Lipinski reinforced that by saying we may never know the benefit Kayos is as a deterrent simply because it is known that he is on our force. Don addressed the need for additional volunteer reserve police officers.

The 2015 Budget Estimates were reviewed by the State at Kokomo today.

Regulating golf carts in town limits was addressed. The State allows this to be done at the municipal level. It was noted that one big problem is young people drivers. After a short discussion, Town Attorney Corbin King noted he has a file in place on this subject. This will be addressed at the August meeting.

Treasurer's Report was presented and approved.

Per recommendation from Corbin King, New London residents will be invited to attend the August Meeting for information and comments concerning trash removal for their town.

The County Attorney is assisting us with information on investment of the Parks Estates monies.

Tina Henderson needs to be contacted to advise us on availability of grants for updating street lighting.

Jeff Condo asked about the procedures for the rate increase. Jeff Lipinski stated there will be more discussion, planning and meetings announced.

Rob Hewitt noted that Jason Lawson had spent two and a half days getting the front of the Community Center cleaned up and weed free.

Jeff Lipinski noted that a candidate for County Commissioner is living in our community and present at our meeting. He introduced Mike Barger who is running against Paul Wyman in November.

Linda Schermer stated that preparations are underway for the tutoring program that is offered in our community. She noted that tutors are needed to assist students through fifth grade with basic skills on Tuesdays from 4 to 5 o'clock. If interested in helping with this worthwhile program, stop in the town hall for more information.

There being no further business, claims were presented and the meeting adjourned.

Jeff Lipinski, President

Linda Downey, Clk. Treas.