

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Town Hall
May 18, 2020

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

Jeff Lipinski opened the meeting.

Kent Milburn gave prayer, touching briefly on the pandemic we have been dealing with. Don Parvin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jeff Lipinski said we would only try to do pressing matters and those matters would be limited to 5 minutes because of the situation at hand.

Minutes from the previous meeting (March) and one special meeting were approved.

Plan Commission – Mike Kanable left a report with Megan Reel. She stated Mike had written 7 permits since we last met. A shed at 288 S. Liberty St., a fence at 372 Yellowstone Dr., a pool at 4029 Pebble Lane, a shed at 380 N. Liberty St., a fence at 430 N. East St., a shed at 264 S. Liberty St., and a fence at 240 E. North St.

Don Parvin said he would like to nominate and made a motion for Tony Duncan to fill the vacant seat on the Plan Commission board. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No pressing business

TIF Board – No pressing business

Historical Society – No pressing business

Park & Tree Board – No pressing business

Streets and Wastewater – Megan Reel said she talked to Craig and he told her he would catch up the report for the next meeting.

Pat Reel said he talked to Rick Homkes, and Rick has mowed the Western Heights pond 3 times this year because it hadn't been mowed. Pat said he knows it is on

our list to be mowed, but it needs to be mowed regularly. Don said he would take care of it.

Marshal's Report – Deputy Carl Swan had the last 2 months reports. Some board members said they did not need all the paperwork that was given each time by the Marshal's Dept., just the main page with all the stats on it. Carl said he was ok with that. Don Parvin stated he wanted all the paperwork each month. Carl said that is fine too, he could do that.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Reel stated that our recent SBOA Audit went well. They did 2017-2019. There were a few minor things that she will fix going forward. Megan said we were responsible for \$3,741.00 for the Wastewater portion of the audit. She said she is taking 25% of this out of New London and 75% out of Wastewater (Russiaville). She said if the council wanted it to come out of these 2 accounts differently to let her know before tomorrow. The General portion of the audit was \$4,614.00, this will be sent to the county and they will deduct it from the property tax draw we get, and county will pay the state.

Megan Reel said when SBOA was here, they found that some CCD money was put into the General account in error in 2018. Therefore, SBOA directed her to transfer \$2,674.44 from General to CCD. This transfer was made.

Megan Reel also said when SBOA was here, they found that some General money was put into the CREDIT in error in 2017 and 2018. Therefore, SBOA directed her to transfer \$63,950.18 from CREDIT to General. Megan apologized and said she did not know it was wrong until half way through 2019, and at that time only fixed what she had done wrong in 2019, and continued to do it correctly after that. Megan stated she would transfer this money closer to the end of the year as we will not have enough in CREDIT to transfer it now. It must be done this year. Also, since this needs to be done, the CREDIT appropriation cannot be used this year.

Megan Reel stated the CD's at the bank are coming due. Don Parvin made a motion to redo the CD's at the bank for the same term as before (182 days). Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Myrna, and Pat voting for passage.

Don Parvin said he asked the auditor how we did on the audit. He said he would rate us at 99.9%. Don said it was the best we have had in long time.

Dave Kieser – Jeff Lipinski said he talked to Dave on the phone and he would be coming with a lot of business that is going on. Don Parvin said we are focusing mostly on the sidewalk project right now to try to get that done. Megan Reel said that Jeff signed the notice to proceed.

Don Parvin said Dave was still working on the lighting, interurban, and the feasibility study, and the south Union St. sidewalk extension proposal, and the wastewater plant. Dave told Pat and Don there was a lot of grant money out there and he is working with someone who is very interested in getting this money to small towns such as Russiaville.

Sterling Johnson memorial – Jeff Lipinski said we were going to rename the police station at some point. Pat Reel asked if we could table this just for a bit longer. Myrna Claar said she thought Sterling always used his middle initial “F”, so she wanted to make sure that was on the memorial. It was noted.

EMA Agreement – Don Parvin made a motion to accept the mutual aid agreement again this year. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

Jansen Asphalt – Don Parvin would like to get the Town Hall’s asphalt parking lot and behind to the maintenance building and police station sealed, and striped where needed. The quote was \$1,755.00. Don Parvin said the recycling bins would have to be removed for 24 hours. Don Parvin made a motion to allow Jansen Asphalt to do this. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Myrna, and Pat voting for passage.

Pat Reel said that Carl Swan has driven the 2005 Tahoe. Pat asked his opinion of it being a car that could still be used for the police department. Carl said he did not feel it was safe to use as a police vehicle. Pat Reel said he would like to donate the 2005 Tahoe to the Russiaville Fire/EMS service.

Sean Smith, a resident, asked if it wasn’t safe for the police why is it safe for the fire department. Carl Swan said it would need some money put into it, to make it “sound” for police work, but it would be great for administrative type services

such as police chief etc. Don Parvin asked Pat Reel if he had talked to the fire department about this. Pat Reel said he had, and they would accept the vehicle. Don Parvin made a motion to donate the 2005 Tahoe to Russiaville Fire/EMS Department. Myrna Claar seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Myrna, and Pat voting for passage.

Pat Reel asked Carl what would need to be taken out of it. Carl said just the radios and the blue lights. Pat asked Carl if he could get the radios out of it. Carl agreed. Carl said he would let Pat know when it is done and they could take care of the rest of what needs to be done.

Alley between College and Kinsey – There was an issue with a complaint about some ruts that were left in the grass alley by a Duke Energy truck. Don Parvin said he got bids on stoning it and also a bid for putting dirt in there to fix it. Don also talked to Duke Energy about this, they will come in and fix the alley from what was torn up with dirt and seed. Jay Oiler is who Don talked to regarding this. Don Parvin said he will go down and talk to Mr. Helmberger, a resident on College St., who tilled and seeded the part right behind his house. Pat Reel said we will continue to have this problem, and he is not opposed to opening it up to an all-weather alley eventually. There was a letter from Terri Jackson, 380 E. College St., and petition given to the council that the residents did not want the alley stoned. Don Parvin said he agrees that this will happen again, when Comcast, Duke Energy, or AT&T have to get in there to do work. This will have to be revisited. Sean Smith, 320 E. College St, was present to discuss the alley. He is not opposed to stoning the alley, his concern is drainage and lighting in the alley if they stone the alley. Mr. Smith is concerned about people walking in that alley. Mr. Parvin said it is still an alley at this point and that could happen anyway. Mr. Smith is worried about mischief. Mr. Reel said we have police to take care of that issue. He said his main issue is keeping people's power on, and other utilities can get in there. If this happens again, it will be fixed right. Mr. Parvin said we are trying to fix these alleys in the best and safest concern we can. Mr. Parvin said there is no difference if people are walking down the road or down an alley, if they are stopping then that is different and he understands Mr. Smith's concerns. Mr. Reel said if a police officer is going down that alley, you would get better coverage from all sides not just the street, as it stands now the police could not take their car down there. Mr. Smith said he would be ok with that, as long as his community is safe.

Don Parvin said we are just trying to fix a problem that was brought to us, and right now it is just a short-term fix, and eventually will need to be fixed correctly.

Budget – Megan Reel said we need to set up a time to discuss what is needed for the budget for 2021. After some discussion, a special meeting for this was set for June 10th at 6pm.

Ordinance 2020-01 – An ordinance authorizing payment of claims was introduced. This will be so the clerk can pay certain claims, such as, utilities, previously approved claims, etc. before the docket is signed. Pat Reel made a motion to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 2020-01 on the first reading. Don Parvin seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Don, and Myrna voting for passage. Pat Reel made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-01 on the first reading. Don Parvin seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Don, and Myrna voting for passage.

Megan Reel asked for clarification as to when the Community Center could open again. Jeff Lipinski stated as of right now we can open it June 1st. Unless something would change between now and then.

Kent Milburn asked about the sidewalks down by his house on Carter St. There are a couple that are just out in the middle of yard and they don't go anywhere, they are just pieces. Don Parvin said it will be a long while before we put new sidewalks in down there. He said once they are in the homeowner is responsible for them. Kent said he has a large pond down there now since they redid the road. Don said we replaced exactly what was taken out when the paving was done. Don said we are working toward some drainage but it will be a while. Pat and Don said they would look at this.

Sean Smith thanked the council for their time while discussing his issues. Mr. Smith has questions about the police department and some of the issues that have been going on with it lately. He wants to know why we went from 4 police officers to 1, and he has been hearing things within the police department of physical violence, corruption, abuse of power, and threats against one another, resulting in a suspension of an officer. Jeff Lipinski stated that he had called Mr. Smith previously about this, and reiterated that we have suspended the reserve

program at this point and part time police due to some issues that we were having internally. We have started the application process to be able to hire a new Marshal. This was pushed back a month due to the Coronavirus pandemic and not being able to meet for our meetings. Jeff assured Mr. Smith that they take the safety of our community very seriously, and one of the Howard County deputies that lives out this way spend a significant amount of time volunteering out here in the evenings. We will probably not go back to 4 police officers for the town, we try to financially figure out the police officers as well as what is best staffing wise. Some of the other things Mr. Smith mentioned are all here say or rumor mill, and these are things we cannot control, or attempt to control. At this point we are moving forward with what we have and making adjustments as we go. Jeff Lipinski stated Russiaville will be fine, maybe better than it was before after it is all dealt with, and should be fully staffed in our police department by sometime in July.

Don Parvin said this is not the first time we have only had one officer, and once we go through this transition, we will be better than we were before.

Jeff Lipinski read a thank you letter from Peggy Hollingsworth and her sister Alma, for the attention that was given to the paving on Seward St. by members of the council and the Baumgartner Paving crew.

Don Parvin said that Baumgartner did a good job this year. Pat Reel interjected that Baumgartner did an outstanding job this year, that their attention to detail was far better that last year.

Don Parvin made a motion that Paul Sattler is to get paid for the Memorial Day holiday. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, and Myrna voting for passage.

Don Parvin said he would like to give Paul Sattler a raise of 50 cents. Jeff Lipinski said he just got a raise. Pat Reel agreed. There was some more discussion about this, and the council decided to wait on this for now.

Don Parvin is still working on the employee policy, he just has a few more things to do on this.

Jeff Lipinski met with Randy Vannatter to try to finalize the k-9 situation. Randy decided not to sign the letter that we had saying that he could not use k-9 Ellie for police business or sold, that she was to only remain a pet.

Corbin King drafted a new letter that gave Randy Vannatter 10 days to sign the original letter that was talked about above or return Ellie to the Town of Russiaville with the k-9 equipment.

Don Parvin said he was against him keeping the dog in the first place, this could have already been taken care of.

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. Let it be noted that the claims from April 2020 were also approved, the docket for these was signed by the board members on April 20th, so they could be paid timely.

Pat Reel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don Parvin seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Jeff Lipinski, President

Megan Reel, Clerk-Treasurer