

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Budget Public Hearing
Russiaville Town Hall
September 16, 2019

Council Present – Jeff Lipinski, Rob Hewitt, Kyle Parvin, and Pat Reel.
Corbin King, the town’s attorney was also present.

Kent Milburn gave prayer, and Pat Reel led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jeff Lipinski opened the Public Hearing on the 2020 Budget.

Jeff Lipinski read the budget estimate of \$893,998.00, the current tax levy of \$321,967.00, and the property tax cap credit of \$29,690.00. Kyle Parvin made a motion to accept the 2020 budget as read. Rob Hewitt seconded. Pat Reel abstained as he is a member of the Russiaville Volunteer Fire Department. Jeff Lipinski voted to accept the 2020 budget, therefore the motion carried with Kyle, Rob, and Jeff voting for passage.

There being no other comments from guests or council, the public hearing closed.

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall
September 16, 2019

Council Present – Jeff Lipinski, Rob Hewitt, Kyle Parvin, and Pat Reel.
Corbin King, the town’s attorney was also present.

Jeff Lipinski opened the meeting.

Minutes from last month’s meeting were approved.

Plan Commission – No one was present to report.

Board of Zoning Appeals - No one was present to report.

TIF Board – Megan Reel said she filed the Gateway documents that had to be done before the end of the month. Also, she said we would get more TIF money this Fall. We get it twice a year when property taxes are due.

Historical Society – Jan Koloszar sent a note to say they had their meeting on September 10, 2019 at the annex building. She said Myrna Claar was there and they had 2 community members attend to discuss the Historical Society. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the annex.

Myrna Claar asked about the grant that was received from the Community Foundation for the HVAC. Jeff Lipinski said he did not have a good answer for her about this. We need to check with Dave Kieser. When all the reorganizing came about for the Historical Society, everything was put on hold.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby was present and said the trail is completed. They had the inspection by the DNR, and everything was fine except for the van accessible signs. They were put up and a picture of them were forwarded to the DNR, so the last of the grant will be released and finished up.

Jill Newby said there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 29, 2019 for the trail from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. This will be done partnering with American Health Network's "walk with a doc." There are several fliers around town and in their offices. They are not looking for new patients, they are just trying to get people healthier. Jill said the school will send out an email to parents about this.

Jill Newby said the Community Center cleaning started today. They should be done by this Thursday evening. Jill said herself, Reba, and Jann Hyman went to the Community Center to organize and hopefully make it easier for them to clean.

Rick said the Artwork and Signage grant from the Community Foundation – the last 2 signs were done today and Mike Collins will pick them up tomorrow. Rick will then call the fencing company to put them in.

Two bat houses went up on Sunday – one at the Community Center Park and the other at the Western Heights pond. There will be two more put up in about 2 weeks or so.

Rick said they are compiling a list of Eagle Scout projects for next year, so if anyone has any ideas for this, get them to Rick so he can put them on the list.

Jill Newby said her daughter works at school and had a boy that she thought would be good for a project.

Jeff Lipinski said he was contacted by Western Football and they told him every year before the sectional they have a dinner. This year it will be on October 17th. They wanted to know if they could use the Community Center. Rick Homkes said “yes, they can rent it.” Jeff Lipinski said he thinks that there may be special events, since it is a “community center,” that maybe they shouldn’t have to rent it. There was some discussion on both sides of this, Rob Hewitt agreed with Jeff, and Rick Homkes said they should pay \$50.00 since they are not for profit.

Kyle Parvin said if we are letting them use it for free for senior day then we should let them use it for this. Craig Thompson said he would donate the \$50.00 for the rental if it was needed, some other people agreed.

Pat Reel made a motion to let the Western Football have the Community Center for free on October 17th for their dinner. Rob Hewitt seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Rob, and Kyle voting for passage.

Streets/Wastewater – A written report was given. Craig Thompson was present. Corbin King is reviewing the ordinance for downspouts and sump pumps, by the ordinance it is not allowed for water from sump pumps and downspouts to go into the sewer. This is making our sewer capacity too high, and could contribute to a sewer ban if we do not do something to remedy this. Jeff Lipinski asked Corbin if we should send letters out to all the homeowners to try to remedy this issue. Corbin said he was hoping Craig knew some of the culprits, to which Craig said he did know of a handful that needed to be remedied. Corbin suggested to send a notice for inspection to the people he knows are in violation. The rest of the people he said to send a notice to try to remedy it.

Ethel Morgan said to put in the letter to let them know that if we do not reduce the flows, we will have to expand the wastewater plant and that will cost them more money. There could be a rate increase for the cost of treating these flows that are not legal. Corbin agreed, and asked Craig to come up with something for him to look at, while still being neighborly but get the point across that we have to do something about the excessive flows.

Pat Reel asked Craig about the zero-turn mower. It is 2015 and has 643 hours on it. Pat said maybe get some quotes on something to replace it. Craig said he would.

Rick Homkes said he used the town golf cart recently on a few projects here in town, and it came in very handy.

Marshal's Dept. – A written report was given. Randy Vannatter was present and stated the tornado siren at the Lions Club is not working. Huston is going to come out and take it down to see what repair is needed for it.

Jeff Lipinski asked if Carl Swan was full time and on benefits. Randy said “yes, as of the 1st of September.

Carl Swan has been working on the new police car. They are in hopes to have it ready to be on the road in a week or so.

Jeff Lipinski asked about the police cars we had – Randy said we now have 4 cars. Randy said he had a guy contact him the end of last week about being a reserve for the Russiaville, so this would work out great.

Treasurer's Report – A written report was given. Megan Reel had nothing else to add.

Dave Kieser – Will not be present. Megan Reel said Dave is working on the paperwork to finish up the RTP grant.

New London project – Jeff Lipinski said we had 2 proposals that we opened at the public hearing tonight for the blower motor installation. The first proposal was from Maddox Industrial Group with a total of \$142,900.00. The second proposal was from Davidson Excavating with a total of \$39,700.00. Rob Hewitt made a motion to accept the proposal from Davidson Excavating for \$39,700.00 tentative on getting all the documentation paperwork. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Rob, Pat, and Kyle voting for passage.

Ethel Morgan was present and said after the blower and installation on the project, there is \$9,701.00 left for engineering services. Ethel originally said she would lower the fee she had in her contract to meet this number, so we didn't have to put in more money other than spending the grant money. She said she will do that, and she has an invoice tonight that pretty much covers her out of pocket expenses for \$8,000.00, for planning, and getting the exhibits and figures, and everything else. Ethel said Tina Mendenhall is subcontracting Ethel to do all the labor standards with SRF, so that will pretty much eat the other \$1,701.00.

Ethel said she would work with Craig on this, but she would not be giving a report at every council meeting as she is not getting compensated for it. She will send out email reports, but she would like the council to consider paying her something over and above the remaining funds in the loan. Council asked for a figure on this. Ethel said up to \$5,000.00. Jeff Lipinski said they would take it under advisement.

Pat Reel made a motion to pay the invoice to Hometown Engineering for \$8,000.00 (this will come out of the grant funds). Rob Hewitt seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Rob, and Kyle voting for passage.

Ethel said we did get approval from SRF for the work we are doing now late last week.

Jeff Lipinski said there was an article in the paper today about the New London project. He and Corbin were interviewed about it and it was a nice article. Jeff said it made Russiaville look like it was a nice community, because it helped the neighboring town. Ethel agreed that Russiaville is a nice community. Jeff thanked Ethel for all the work she has put into this project.

Ethel said the goal for the blower installation is to get the concrete pad poured before it gets cold. She said if we authorize Davidson Excavating to go to construction in October, will they have enough time to pour a pad. Ethel said once they get the paperwork together, maybe they could authorize Jeff to sign contracts so we could get this going quicker.

Pat Reel made a motion to allow Jeff Lipinski to sign the contracts for Davidson Excavating to get things moving quicker due to winter constraints. Kyle Parvin seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Kyle, and Rob voting for passage.

Ordinance 2018-11 – Corbin King said he and Don Parvin worked on this a couple of weeks ago. There are a few things they are still working on and it should be ready to pass at next month's meeting.

Jeff Lipinski said he has already had complaints about the new parking ordinance. A lady saw Jeff at Waddell's and said she did not like the fact that she would not be able to park on either side of East Street. She was not upset, but she does not agree with it. Randy Vannatter said she had talked to him too. Jeff and Randy both told her to come to the meeting.

Jeff Lipinski said he had already told Craig that we were going to put the new streets/wastewater truck on hold. They will revisit it in 2020 for the 2021 budget.

150 W. Kinsey Dr. – Megan Reel said she had complaints about trees grown out into the alley. The town workers cut them back as they were on our right of way. Now she has had another complaint from the person that owns the property where the trees are planted. Randy Vannatter was called on a police call, there about this. They are on the alley right of way. Corbin King said there is a law that the neighbors have all the way to the stratosphere. If limbs are hanging over from another property onto yours you can trim off what is hanging over, and this is the same way. Pat said when you cut that kind of tree that is just the way it is going to look.

Resolution 2019-02 to reduce current year appropriation. Megan Reel stated she had to reduce the Park appropriation for this year from \$20,000.00 to \$9,500.00. This will help fund \$9,000.00 for the 2020 budget.

Rob Hewitt made a motion to accept resolution 2019-02. Rick Homkes asked for an explanation. Megan Reel stated that we will be taking \$30,000.00 at the end of the year out of the park fund, and in order for them to fund any money in that fund for next year, I had to reduce this year to make it all work. Otherwise they would not have funded anything for 2020. Rick said he did not understand, that if he got a grant or a donation this year, he could not spend it until the following year because it was not appropriated. How can we do that if we don't know we are going to get a grant or donation. Corbin King said that is just their rule. We appropriate the money and we have to stay within your appropriation. Megan said if we absolutely have to do an additional appropriation we will.

Kyle Parvin seconded the motion, and it carried with Rob, Kyle, and Pat voting for passage.

Dog poop complaint – Megan Reel said the doctor's office on Liberty St. has complained about the person letting their dog's poop on the street and sidewalks around there. Randy Vannatter said it has been handled. He has talked to the people that are the ones that allow their dogs to poop on the streets/sidewalks and they said they would not let it happen again or would clean it up if it did.

Pat Reel said that he and Don Parvin had went around town looking at all the dark areas in town that possibly could use street lights. They are looking into a cost analysis for adding some lights to existing poles. There are several places were kids get picked up on the school bus that is dark.

Kent Milburn said it is very dark down by his house. Pat Reel said they are trying to put lights in places where there is already an existing pole. He said to get and set a pole is very costly. Kent said he understood and it really didn't matter to him to have it or not.

Kent Milburn said he had 2 questions. He was asking about parking in Western Heights. He said it is very difficult to get around through there. Randy said they are working on that to get school buses and fire trucks to be able to get through there with no problems.

Kent said he had a second question, but he is 83 and he cannot remember it right now! He said apparently it is not real important. Jeff Lipinski said if he thinks of it to give Megan a call, and she will get the issue to the right person to be able to handle it. Kent Milburn said he did not want to hang around her any more than he had to. Megan took offense, jokingly. Everyone had a good laugh.

Craig said he wanted the council to consider compensating Ethel Morgan something on the blower installation. He said Ethel has done a considerable amount for this project, and done a good job. The council agreed and told Megan to put it on the agenda for next month's meeting.

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. Rob Hewitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kyle Parvin seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Jeff Lipinski, President
Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer