

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Regular Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall
May 20, 2019

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

Jeff Lipinski opened the meeting.

Ned Sutherland gave prayer. Don Parvin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from last meeting were approved.

Plan Commission – Megan Reel had Mike Kanable’s report. She stated there had been a garage/driveway permit at 160 Third St., and 4 fence permits at the following addresses – 110 W. Kinsey Dr., 470 E. College St., 430 E. College St., and 350 Pueblo Dr.

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

TIF – nothing to report

Russiaville Historical Society – Jan Koloszar called Megan Reel earlier in the day to say she had no major updates.

Park and Tree Board – Jill Newby said the fence at Brady Park had been installed. Community day went well, they had to use the rain date this year, so it was on the May 10th. Jill said Kaleb Hollingsworth donated a load of mulch for the park, she was very thankful for that. First Baptist Church fed everyone at the Community Center, and Jill appreciated that. Jeff Lipinski told Jill that his neighbor talks very highly of the seniors coming to help him each year.

The Community Center is set to have a deep cleaning tomorrow (May 21st) at 9:00 am. This was previously approved.

Jill also stated the community center was rented 8 days in May and 14 days in June, she was very pleased with this.

The recreational trail is close to being finished. Jeff Lipinski said on his way to the meeting, he got a phone call from someone that wanted him to know how wonderful the walking trail is.

Jill said they had 3 signs that needed to be put up for “no motorized vehicles on the trail.”

Jeff Lipinski said the one complaint he has had from the ballpark and now the walking trail is the bathrooms. He thinks we as the town, ballpark, park board need to look at this issue. The bathrooms at the ballpark have been there since 1966. He is hoping with a joint effort we could make this better for everyone. Jeff is not sure how much this would cost or how much the town could put toward this, but he thinks it should be looked into.

Jill Newby asked Dave Kieser if there was a grant for this type of thing, being that the town did not own it. Dave said he thinks there may be something out there, he will look into it.

Rick Homkes brought the signs back up to keep motorized vehicles off the trail. He stated there have been golf cart on it, and a plumber’s van that was working on the bathrooms at the ballpark. He would like to have the signs put up as soon as possible.

Don Parvin said our ordinance 2017-08 allows golf carts in the park, but does not say anything about the walking trail. After talking to Rick, Jill, Craig, and Randy, Don thinks the solution is to amend this ordinance to say that motorized vehicles (including golf carts) shall not be allowed in any park or community center except in the parking lot. No golf cart or motorized vehicle shall be allowed on, nor shall cross the walking trail. Don said a golf cart is a motorized vehicle in Indiana. Don called Randy up to verify this. He agreed.

Dave Kieser said he thought the grant specified no motorized vehicles on the walking trail.

Rick Homkes said having golf carts around the trail makes it hazardous for the walkers. Don Parvin said if we allow them to cross the trail at all and someone gets hit, we are liable. If we make it so they cannot be on the trail at all, this will fix it all.

Don Parvin said there is another issue on parking. People are not parking in parking spots, they are parking on the sides. Parking is in designated lined areas only. There is no overnight parking. Don would like to amend this part of the ordinance as well to say there shall be no parking on grass areas. The first

offense will be \$25.00, and thereafter it shall be doubled and payable to the Russiaville Town Clerk.

Don Parvin made a motion to pass the above amendment to ordinance 2017-08 on the first reading stating that motorized vehicles (including golf carts) shall not be allowed in any park or community center except in the parking lot. No golf cart or motorized vehicle shall be allowed on, nor shall cross the walking trail. Also, Parking is in designated lined areas only. There is no overnight parking. Don would like to amend this part of the ordinance as well to say there shall be no parking on grass areas. The first offense will be \$25.00, and thereafter it shall be doubled and payable to the Russiaville Town Clerk. Rob Hewitt seconded, and the motion carried on the first reading with Don, Rob, Kyle, and Pat voting for passage.

Don Parvin said there are 2 spots that he would like to make handicapped spots, and also add two more in the same place. Randy Vannatter asked Dave Kieser if when you put in a handicapped spot, does it need to have the stencil on the ground and also have a sign marking the spots. Dave confirmed this was true. Don Parvin made a motion to change the 2 existing spots and add two more to make 4 additional handicapped parking spaces. Kyle seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Kyle, Rob, and Pat voting for passage.

Don Parvin said he would like to paint the parking area where there is no parking with stripes. This is a strip to the north of where the motorcycle parking is. Rick Homkes said there is a small spot closest to the new cement, and when the DNR came through to do inspection, they said that would be a good place to the diagonal stripes, so the handicapped spot could also show this as a lift zone. Most of the time it would not be there, as the lift is only there when the wheel chairs are going down. Most of the time it would just be diagonal stripe. That would be an access point to the trail head from the parking lot. Don Parvin made a motion to do this. Kyle Parvin seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Kyle, Rob, and Pat voting for passage.

Don Parvin said he recommends all the park rules be on a sign. This way it looks nice and there are less signs everywhere. Rick believes some things need their

own signs such as picking up after your dogs and no motorized vehicles on the trail.

Dave Kieser said when the town went after the grant for the trail, it was awarded under the assumption that it was a non-motorized vehicle grant. Therefore, no motorized vehicles, including golf carts, are to be on the trail. Pat Reel said, so as long as we have the signage up and something happens to where someone runs in to someone else on a golf cart or motorized vehicle, we are not liable. Dave said yes that is correct. Get the signs put up.

Jill Newby said she had ordered a dog pick up station for the trail, it will come in this week.

Jeff Lipinski told Jill – good job on senior day, thank you.

Summer Fest – No one present to report.

Streets and Wastewater - Written report was given. Mike Collins was present to add they were going to get the rope restrung on the community center flag and get that back up. They will also get the banners put up this week. Pat Reel asked how the new John Deere was working. Mike said it is good. Pat said, and we still got the Kubota. When the lease was up, there was a buyout for \$1.00, so we now own the Kubota.

Marshal's Dept. – Written reports were given. Randy Vannatter was present, and said he talked to Jordan Buckley about some different cameras. We need a bigger hard drive to be able to have the cameras run like they need to. They talked about putting a 4-power movable zoom camera onto the pavilion so you can see the park. This will allow you to zoom in and see peoples faces. This way when we have these issues in the park like we have we will be able to see who did it. Randy does not have a quote yet, but he is thinking somewhere around \$1,600.00.

Randy will bring a quote to next months meeting for this.

Randy said Carl Swan has been working on the nuisance/junk ordinance. After the town wide trash cleanup, Marty Johnson had stuff sitting out at his house that he had picked up from it that he was going to scrap out. Carl put a notice on Marty's door. Randy said the next day Marty came to the police station when Randy was there and he was really upset. Randy just wanted council to be aware,

and to know that they were within the ordinance. Randy told Marty he would have given him the week after he had accumulated this stuff to clean it up, but Carl did not know that Marty does this. Carl is really trying to get things cleaned up here in town, it is a process but things are getting cleaned up.

Don Parvin asked Randy about a vehicle that was sitting up town. Randy said they tagged it Friday and they had to wait 72 hours. They towed it today.

Treasurer's Report – Written reports were given. Megan Reel stated the 3 CD's were coming due at the bank and she wanted to know if council wanted them renewed at the same term at 182 days. Council said yes that would be fine. She will get this done next week.

Dave Kieser – He stated the paving was done. He is working on the energy efficiency with NIPSCO and Rural Development for the Town Hall, maintenance building, and police station complex. He is closing in on completing the Asset Management Plan. They got the mapping done for the sanitary sewer, and got it converted to GIS. Now the Town will have it all electronically.

The RBDG (Rural Business Development Grant) – Dave is working with Duke Energy and INDOT. There is a photo-metric detail it has to go through for the lighting, and there are certain lighting standards that we have to have to light the corridor. They are reviewing the lighting fixtures. There is something called a foot candle of how well it actually lights where we are putting them, to prevent accidents. Jeff Lipinski asked what the time frame is to get this project going. Mr. Kieser said probably fall of this year, as long as he can get everyone on board. Dave said they got the survey for extending the sidewalks on Main Street out from where they are on west to 775 W. on both sides of the road.

New London Grant – Ethel Morgan sent an email as she could not be here tonight. She was going to bring the pay applications for April. The county has signed off on the Davidson pay application, and it is being processed through IOCRA. Ethel stated in the email that Colleen from Mendenhall would be sending Megan the disbursement request for SRF for the Hometown invoice. The invoice amounts are Davidson Excavating - \$45,346.47 and Hometown - \$3,290.00.

Ethel also gave a quick update on the job. She stated, according to the contractor, the South lift station is scheduled to have pumps and rails installed on

Tuesday or Wednesday; so hopefully, they will have a start up late next week or the week after.

Colleen Freeman from Mendenall sent an email as she could not be here tonight either. Colleen sent the SRF disbursement form # 13 for Jeff Lipinski's signature at the end of last week, so that she could get it to SRF before she went on vacation. The SRF disbursement is paid to Hometown engineering in the amount of \$3,290.00.

Colleen also sent Davidson's pay application # 6 for Jeff Lipinski to sign at the end of last week. This pay application was approved by the County on May 6th, and the County signed off on the claim voucher to draw the grant funds down to pay all of this pay application in the amount of \$45,346.47.

A letter was also received from OCRA approving the time extension request. Completion deadline has been extended from May 31, 2019 to July 15, 2019.

Ordinance 2018-11 – tabled till next month.

Caleb Woolace – 17-year old Eagle Scout present to discuss building bat houses around town for his project. He had handouts and a model to show what they would be like, how much they would cost, and where he would like to put them. They would be made of cedar wood. They will be built about 12-feet off the ground. Rick Homkes said Caleb came through the Park & Tree Board first and got their approval. Bats eat insects/mosquitos, they can catch up to 600 per hour. They also help to pollinate plants, like bees. Jeff Lipinski asked about the cost of the project, if they were asking for help from the town. The cost of the project will be \$430.49. Caleb father was also present and said, the beneficiary can help. If the town wants to, they can, but if not, they will figure out a way to come up with the money. After some discussion, council decided they would like to have 4 of them. Rick Homkes said the town has helped on some of the more costly project, but some of the others the scouts have funded themselves. Pat Reel made a motion to give Caleb Woolace \$250.00 toward the bat house project. Rob Hewitt seconded, and the motion carried with Pat, Rob, Don, and Kyle voting for passage.

Mr. Woolace asked if there were any issues with the sites that they had presented to put the bat houses. Jeff Lipinski said the 3 presented were fine and Pat Reel would get with Caleb and his dad as to were to put the 4th one.

Bo Britton, and Landen and Misty Bartley were present from Russiaville Volunteer Fire Department. They presented a letter about the contract for next year, and get it in for the town's budget process. Jeff Lipinski asked Megan Reel if we had paid them yet this year. She said no, we typically write them checks in June and December.

Jeff Lipinski appreciates them getting the letter to ask for more funds before our budget process. Council will look at this and discuss and see what they can do, and let them know.

Rob Hewitt asked about how the Fire Department was working with the Ambulance Service now. Landen Bartley stated the Fire Department had completely taken over the Ambulance Service now. The ambulance is part of the Fire Department. All the EMT's came over and are now members of the Russiaville Volunteer Fire Department. Jeff Lipinski asked how they were funding the ambulance portion. Landen said, the money that they bill for from the ambulance, and the rest is being supplemented from the fire department. It does make it tight money wise.

Don Parvin asked if they had found out any more on the ISO rating for insurance rates, Don said there have been several, including his insurance, that went up because the rating changed. Landen said the ISO rating is something that each individual homeowner has to deal with their insurance companies. Some insurance companies are adhering with ISO and some are not. Don Parvin asked what can we do. Landen stated ISO is based upon a very large scale of inspections and gradings. The more monies you have to put toward your fire department the lower your ISO Rating will be. A lot of it has to do with equipment, and water supply. This has increased immensely, which has helped out because we have more hydrants, and better lines and pressure. He stated we went from a 7 to a 3, and that is a huge jump. Now we are at a 4, and that is very good. Misty Bartley said, but your insurance company doesn't have to pick a 4. They unfortunately can pick whatever they want.

Jeff Lipinski asked Landen what he thought it would cost to run the ambulance service for a year. Landen said he is really not sure. Landen said when they took over the ambulance service, they did it based on the reason that if they didn't step up and do it the town would have no ambulance service. The first 12 months for them is going to be a really strong learning curve because this is all new and never been done. There were some things that were not getting done, and there are some things that they are working on to even get billing done.

Don Parvin would like to commend the Fire Department for taking the ambulance over, he thinks it is the best thing that could have happened.

Landen said that in 2018 there were 386 dispatched calls for the ambulance service, and they answered 164 of them. In 2019 so far, there have been 36 dispatched calls, and 34 of them have been answered.

Jeff Lipinski really appreciated RVFD taking over Russiaville Ambulance Service. Jeff knows we need to work with RVFD as much as we can to make this work for our public safety, this means financially as well. Pat Reel asked if they were keeping all the books separate or together. Bo Britton said they do keep things separate on paper, but it all goes into the same account.

CCMG – 2019 for 2020 roads – All the roads in town could be finished if we get the grant money again. Don Parvin made a motion to finish the roads for 2020 in the amount close to \$128,500.00 (our part being around \$34,000.00) providing we get the CCMG money again. Pat Reel seconded, and the motion carried with Don, Pat, Rob, and Kyle voting for passage.

Linda Schermer asked if the Town would pay for the meat for the senior community day lunch from May 10th. Jeff Lipinski said yes, we would pay for that at Waddells.

Linda Schermer also said the Superintendent, Randy McCracken, came with the seniors for community day this year, and it was nice to see him working right along with the kids.

Bo Britton said to check with Kirk Smith, Honey Creek Twp. Trustee, about the possible restroom restoration at the ballpark. He may be able to help out.

Rick Homkes said to avoid any more signs around the track maybe we could get a stencil to paint no motorized vehicles right on the walking trail. They would have to drive over it at that point, and it would be blatant. Corbin said we already said to put the signs up, we need to put the signs up. Corbin said you can stencil, but put the signs up too.

Rick asked Landen about wetting down the tractor pull track. Landen said they probably could.

Rick also asked about the excess dirt at the walking trail. It will be removed pretty soon probably, and if there are any ideas or need for it please let himself or Jill Newby know.

Jeff would like a date when we can look at the budget. Megan said she would give them this year's numbers for them to look at in June, to be able to project for next year. They will figure out a date.

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. Pat Reel seconded, and the meeting came to an end.

Jeff Lipinski, President

Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer