

**TOWN OF
DARMSTADT, INDIANA**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

**Minutes of
October 13th 2020**

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

TOWN COUNCIL

Paul Freeman, President
Aaron Kendall, Council Member
Ken Godeke, Council Member
Ray Engler, Council Member

CLERK-TREASURER

Mallory Lowe
P. O. Box 20
Darmstadt, In 47618

Board president, Paul Freeman, called the town meeting to order at 7:30pm. In attendance were President Paul Freeman, Clerk-Treasurer Mallory Lowe, council members Aaron Kendall, Ken Godeke and Ray Engler. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Goerges. Attorney Jason Spindler was absent.

Godeke made a motion, seconded by Kendall to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote. Godeke made a motion, seconded by Kendall to approve last month's financial report. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote. Godeke made a motion, seconded by Kendall to approve the accounts payable claims. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

I've noticed our town warning siren has not gone off for testing in a long time. It normally goes off at Noon on Fridays. I drove to the back parking lot behind Trinity and parked in front of the siren last month and nothing happened at noon. So, I called Emergency Management and spoke with Mary Arnold Sept 11th. The previous director, Sherman Greer used to keep us updated. The current director, Cliff Weaver has not. We purchased that siren along with batteries for \$11,000 in 1999. We also purchased the pole and ground from Sigeco for another \$2200. Emergency Management is responsible for the maintenance, inspections and monthly electric bill from Vectren for that siren per our agreement. I asked why it has not gone off in several months. Mary stated they halted Friday testings during Covid, but assured me that our siren DOES work and will still sound during a weather event.

I met with our insurance agent at Torian on Oct 6th to renew our policies. The policies covering everything for us have gone up \$700 since last year. We have had no workman's comp claims which is very good. We are adding the new mulcher unit we just bought to our policies. I've just completed our workman's comp audit forms and will be turning those in this week.

In the Utility Department: This month will begin the new sewer billing in 100's of gallons instead of the previous 1,000's of gallons we've done for the last 40 years for our customers. I've contacted our software company to have it updated to receive and calculate the meter readings correctly. I'll be sending the bills go out end of this month.

In General Town Items: The Shindig 3 day car show will be going on at the 4h center this weekend from Thursday thru Saturday.

Old Business

1. 2021 Budget Adoption

Lowe advised that our 2021 Budget was ready for adoption and council vote. Godeke made a motion, seconded by Kendall to adopt our budget for next year. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

2. Sewer Pump Inspections/Outflow Update

Jeff noted that the inspections that could easily be done have been completed we are down to the rest.

3. Bank Building Lease/Advertising

Aaron noted that he met the assessor's office there today to discuss the property taxes. Engler asked if any of the council was opposed to selling it. Council discussed and said they would be open to hear offers.

4. Update on Railroad Street/Repairs

Engler noted that the road is still currently closed awaiting the BZA variance filing and meetings. The next meeting for their variance is this Thursday at 3pm in Room 318.

5. Update on Repairs for St Joseph Ave Trash Truck Accident

Jeff Goerges stated he has called to have it scheduled and Metzger will start repairs next week.

New Business

1. Old State Rd House & Property

Engler advised he has toured the house again and had a Real Estate Broker inspect and evaluate the property. Jane Crowley the Broker Associate from ReMax has valued the property as-is for approximately \$150,000. Council discussed. Freeman reminded it needs to be rezoned first before any changes. Engler will get with attorney Jason Spindler on rezoning.

Superintendent Report

Jeff Goerges stated that they used the new mulcher on the hill at Old State Road that was blocking the view and it worked well also used it on Wortman Road. Jeff advised there are 3 new homes going up in Darmstadt. There is property for sale off Hoing court. Jeff stated the tractor broke down today and it is currently sitting outside. There is no clutch as of now and will schedule estimates and repair.

Fire Dept Report

Brandon Zimmer was not present but sent report.

Deputy Sheriff Report

Not present

Board member comments

Freeman stated that the grinder did an excellent job on the trees hanging over the roads and applauded Jeff for bringing it up to council to get it and start doing our own tree work to make the roads safe and clear hanging limbs for the school busses.

Ray Engler noted that we are still working with an engineering firm to help us fight Azteca's continued foul smell and now this current proposal of spreading sewage on fields. Engler asked council if we can increase our Azteca engineering consultation budget to \$5k. Kendall made a motion, seconded by Godeke to approve up to \$5,000 for the Azteca foul smell issue.

Attorney comments

Attorney was not present

Resident comments

Kate Potter noted that Harvest Day is this weekend, she has reserved 60 vendors for the event.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe
Clerk-Treasurer

