

**TOWN OF
DARMSTADT, INDIANA**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

**Minutes of
March 9th 2021**

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, Maintenance Mick Moreland and Attorney Jason Spindler.

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

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

In the clerk's office- Mallory Lowe stated: We've had lots of deadlines in February. I submitted our annual debt management affirmation, this is a new procedure I'll need to do annually for our bond now, since this is the 1st time we've been in debt. It was submitted Feb 26th. I completed our Town's Annual Report and submitted it to the Indiana State Board of Accounts on February 24th. I emailed the Darmstadt group a copy and have copies tonight. All went well and it was a successful submission to State.

I'm still moving forward with the Covid-Phase 3 Grants for our town businesses and keeping in touch with our business owners. I've been working on the paperwork with Andy and Debbie from the Economic Development Commission and I've gathered letters from some of the business owners to submit. I completed our application to the US Government's SAM system for Darmstadt to be eligible to receive federal grants. We received notification that the application was successfully submitted and approved.

County offices have been working together on a new updated layered mapping system for Vanderburgh county over the last year or so. I was reviewing the new changes made to mapping and noticed there are errors now with Darmstadt's boundaries which didn't exist before. The new maps with area plan and the assessor's office now exclude Kahre lake subdivision from Darmstadt town limits on several of the layers. I've notified area plan and have been working with Jim Gowen at the assessor's office to correct the errors. Not sure why no one caught these errors before. But hopefully they will be corrected soon, as many Utilities and Companies use these maps daily.

In the Utility Department: I mailed out sewer bills the last week of February with a message noting the new requirements for residents filling pools to call the maintenance department first for new procedures to check out a portable water meter for measurement. I also personally called and text messaged about 12 residents in town who have pools to let them know we are no longer going by their Water Company's water meter measurements and will only go by the portable meters from the maintenance department and that we raised the requirement from 1,000 gallons to 2,000 gallons minimum to charge sewage on water that didn't enter our sewer.

In General Town Items: The Indiana League 4-day annual Institute, is next week. The Institute will have over 500 Town Officials in attendance. There will be several sessions throughout the week from State Board of Accounts and guest speakers from the Indiana State house, Veteran Town Clerks, AIM and the Federal US & Canadian Government. They will be updating us on new requirements and how to best run our Town, Officials and Employees. Lowe is the only Darmstadt Official registered and attending. This will count for 32 hours required Official's training.

Next Saturday March 20th will be our Annual Clean Up day. Eric Gries is in charge of the Town Event and has done a great job of organizing it. I spoke to Crystal Kahre from Trinity Church earlier today to follow up with her and they confirmed they are providing lunch for all the volunteers participating after the teams check in. Eric Gries has again volunteered to collect all the town trash and take it to the landfill for disposal.

Old Business

1. Bank Building Update

Jason Spindler advised that we are on pace to act at the April meeting on opening the bids for Economic Development project. Spindler will get with Mallory Lowe to have notice advertised in newspaper.

2. Portable meters for outdoor water usage/pool filling

Jeff stated that we will start requiring portable meters for pool fillings and excessive water usage. Residents will be required to call Jeff and set up an appointment to check out a portable meter for measuring usage if they don't want to be charged for sewer service on water that did not enter the sewer system. Jeff is to notify Lowe of all deductions.

New Business

1. Ordinance Payroll Change 2021-2 Amending current pay for new maintenance employee Mick Moreland. Council decided to raise his hourly maintenance tech pay rate from \$16.89 an hour to \$22.00 an hour. Moreland was hired in January. Freeman stated that his permanency of employment would be revisited and decided on at a later date.

Engler made a motion, seconded by Kendall to give Moreland a 30% pay raise, motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

2. Ordinance 2021-3 Policy for EFT and Online Banking

Lowe advised that State Board of Accounts stated that we needed to have an Ordinance in place to pay and receive payments and tax revenues in our town's bank accounts.

Engler made a motion, seconded by Kendall, motion passed by 4-0 voice vote

3. Speed Limit change proposal for Kahre Lake Subdivision

Erica Birkner stated she attended as representative of her HOA of Kahre Subdivision after their meeting. The HOA had gathered and requested the two 30mph sign in their subdivision be lowered to 25mph on Hillsdale and Kahre Court. Paul Freeman told stories to Erica about how he was raised in that neighborhood and then told her to come back with a signed petition from the other neighbors.

Kendall made a motion, seconded by Godeke to change speed limit sign in Kahre Subdivision from 30mph to 25mph. Kendall and Godeke voted aye, Freeman and Engler abstained. Motion did not pass. Council said it can be revisited next month.

Superintendent Report

Jeff Goerges stated that they had quite a bit of snow removal last month. He ordered 50 tons of salt for next year. In February they had 8 service calls and 4 so far this month. Jeff had 2 main breaks and is replacing 3 air releases. The price of the air releases went up to \$975. Jeff stated that we need to look at restriping the roads. He will see if we can include restriping in the next grant bids. Lowe added we needed the new high reflectivity striping. Jeff will get quotes. Jeff noted they will try to restart the sewer sump pump inspections soon.

Fire Dept Report

Brandon Zimmer from the Fire Dept stated that they did 3 runs in Darmstadt last month and 110 runs in Scott Township. The average response time was 3.15 minutes. They will be opening the stations back up to public after being closed for Covid.

Deputy Sheriff Report

Chief Noah Robinson stated they did 41 extra patrols, an animal complaint, one deceased subject, a family dispute and a hit and run accident where it took out a fire hydrant and two mailboxes. They did 3 neighborhood checks, one noise complaint and responded to a few burglar alarms. There were 4 accidents in town. Chief Robinson advised that he has sent Darmstadt's Town activity report to Mallory Lowe. He will continue to send the Town Monthly Reports to Lowe.

Board member comments

Ken Godeke asked if we could make the town of Darmstadt a sanctuary town. Godeke said sanctuary towns in a nutshell say that none of the law enforcement could enforce regulations. Jason Spindler said that some counties have adopted 2nd amendment resolutions if that is what Godeke was referring to. Spindler will take a look at it. Chief Robinson stated to keep in mind the safety of gun permits and people getting away without handgun permits.

Ray Engler stated that there was a semi-truck accident at the TV Solutions business on Inglefield road which hit a telephone pole causing it to hang over the railroad track and roadway causing a very hazardous situation. Ray noted Vectren had to respond to the emergency call to remove hazard and install a new pole. After this incident, we had a conference call with the entire Darmstadt staff, attorney, county and area plan. Area Plan and county attorney along with Darmstadt attorney are all working together with fines and pending possible shut down. They will keep us updated.

Paul Freeman noted that Aaron Enlow received his clean bill of health to return to work after his vehicle accident. Paul stated that he would like to keep Mick Moreland on staff at least an additional 2 months and re-evaluate at that time. Ray Engler asked Jeff what he thought. Jeff Goerges replied that he thinks it's a good idea to have Aaron and Mick both on staff.

Kendall made a motion, seconded by Engler to keep Mick Moreland on staff for another 2 months and re-evaluate again at that time. Motion passed by a 4-0 voice vote.

Attorney comments

Jason Spindler stated that Ron London at area plan will be reviewing the property on the corner at Hoing road and Boonville-New Harmony.

Resident comments

Resident Ron Gish noted that he agreed with everything Ray Engler stated about the accident on Inglefield and that it is a hazardous situation that needs to be rectified.

Mark Stocker added that the maintenance guys have done a great job especially with the snow and ice we had. Mark stated that they always do a good job.

Carol Schlumpf asked if Aaron Enlow is coming back to his regular full-time position. Paul Freeman replied yes, Aaron Enlow is coming back to his regular full-time job.

Kate Potter stated that Mick Moreland is a treasure for Darmstadt and thinks the town should keep Mick permanently. Resident noted that Azteca got their land application permit and he stated that there is no one in control of odor. Aaron Kendall replied that he is correct. Kendall stated the odor comes from the lagoons behind the plant and they are working to remedy it but there are no police on odor. Kendall advised that many of us all banded together to try and remedy the odor problem from Azteca with attorneys and engineers.

Engler stated that since the odor comes from the lagoon it's there all the time and as the weather and dew point changes it can make the odor worse.

Carol Schlumpf stated she was happy to see the fire department and the sheriff department at the meeting and commended the maintenance guys on a great job they did on clearing the snow.

Kate Potter noted that a new business is opening in Darmstadt next to the post office called Lula Mae's Home Décor store. Kate Potter advised that Harvest Day will be October 16th.

The meeting adjourned 8:45pm

Attest:
Mallory Lowe
Clerk-Treasurer

