

**TOWN OF
DARMSTADT, INDIANA**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

**Minutes of
October 8th 2019**

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript.
Audio of this meeting is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

TOWN COUNCIL

Paul Freeman, President
Phil McElroy, Council Member
Aaron Kendall, Council Member
Ken Godeke, 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 Phil McElroy. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Goerges. Attorney Jason Spindler was not present.

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

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

In the clerk's office: We continue to work on our 4 year audit. Phil and I attended our introduction meeting with auditor, Linda Garrett. She is almost done and we should have our exit interview soon. I've been working with our new tenants for the Bank Building. We signed the lease and they have paid their deposit and first month's rent. They are having to jump through several hoops with the permits to get the drive-thru window changed to a sliding window and the health department is requiring them to change the sink out in the kitchen to a 3 basin sink. Their certificate of insurance and the name on the lease are not the same name so our insurance agent asked that these both be the same. Bread & Butter is changing the name on lease so both match. Tonight is our budget adoption. All budget numbers, proposed revenues and expenditures have all been completed and entered into the state's Gateway program. After tonight's vote and signature, I'll scan and upload the Form 4 and that will complete our 2020 Budget submission process. We will then wait on State to approved everything and send us the 1782 letting us know their acceptance and/or changes to our budget. I don't foresee any changes needed.

In the Utility Department: I recorded 12 sewer liens totaling just over \$10,000. These have been recorded with the county recorder's office and will be added to their spring property tax bills if not paid by January. I mailed all the sewer bills out on Sept 23rd and they are due Oct 10th. We are now mailing about 536 bills out every month. The requests for summer averaging adjustments have dwindled. The guys and I have had a bit of a battle with Evansville Sewer over the last month with their meter not reading correctly, them estimating us and then not sending us a bill on time which caused us to incur late charges which we are still fighting with them to credit back off our account. I believe the mag meters are now reading correctly for now.

In General Town Items: We received a call September 30th from Eddie Martin, the council president of Griffin, Indiana. He said their town clerk of 27 years was retiring and they were having a very hard time finding a replacement. He called asking if I would consider filling in as their Clerk-Treasurer and running the town of Griffin until they could find a permanent replacement from within the town. I let him know that I really had enough on my plate with one town. But this did bring to light, and I let council know, that is something happens to me, if I'm in an accident or anything, that our emergency backup plan is to call AIM and they should be able to recommend an accountant or perhaps retired clerk to fill in, and Paul Freeman has the authority to also sign town checks if needed.

Old Business

1. Old National Bank Building update

Lowe stated that we have now signed the lease and the renters, Bread & Butter have paid their deposit and first month's rent. Lowe noted that the owners will be working on getting things set up this month.

2. Adoption of 2020 Budget

Lowe advised that our 2020 Budget is up for adoption tonight. McElroy made a motion, seconded by Kendall to adopt the 2020 budget. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

New Business

1. Reedy Bond Issuance Agreement

Freeman stated we need to vote on hiring Reedy as our Bond Issuance agency. McElroy made a motion, seconded by Kendall to have Reedy as our Bond advisors. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

2. Annual Town Insurance Renewal

Lowe advised she had a meeting with our insurance agent at Torian. We are renewing our annual insurance policies for the town, which include worker's comp, property, auto, employee benefits and employment practices. The total this year is \$19,964. That is up \$3,478 from last year, most of which is adding the bank building and new F550 truck to our policies. He did discuss if we would like to add cyber security insurance to our policies, this would be for a breach of information, however, I explained that we do not keep any customer credit card numbers or anything like that, that could be breached. I did want to mention it to council to see if you were interested. The best policy was half million for \$632 a year. Council will get with expert Ray Engler to see if we need cyber insurance.

3. Proposed purchase of a mini-excavator

Freeman stated that we have discussed before purchasing a mini-excavator. Council discussed need.

McElroy made a motion, seconded by Godeke to purchase a BobCat mini-excavator for \$52,718. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

Superintendent Report

Jeff stated they found new blades for the tractor mower at Tractor Supply. Had 15 sewer calls last month and 3 so far this month. Jeff noted that EWSU mag meter was not reading correctly, they was discussion between meter reader and EWSU office personnel as to what to charge us, they ended up never sending us an August bill. When they finally did send the August and September bill together at the same time, they estimated us incorrectly.

Jeff stated that Straeffler Pump did not get our order placed and we ran out of pumps. Jeff advised that he found a new pump for \$499 at Fergusons that may work as well, we will try it out and see.

Jeff noted that the lawsuit Relleke was in over the hit water taps in Darmstadt ended well. Jeff stated that the suit ended in Relleke's favor and Jeff served as a witness. Court advised that Jeff was actually a defendant as Darmstadt in addition to Relleke Excavating.

Fire Chief Report

Brandon Zimmer stated that they did 38 runs from the Darmstadt station last month. Average response time is 3 minutes from the Darmstadt station. There are 266 runs out of the Darmstadt station total so far this year.

Zimmer noted there have not been any accidents at the intersection of St Joe & BNH since Darmstadt installed the 4 way stop. Zimmer stated they are constantly looking for volunteers and looking to hire to fill a few paid positions.

Deputy Sheriff Report

Deputy not present

Board member comments

McElroy noted that he received an email from Elizabeth Sankovitch from Shadow Bluff about the foul smell coming from Azteca. McElroy noted Lowe responded and gave her contact info for the EPA and Health Department.

McElroy advised that Elizabeth did send an email to the EPA who then forwarded it to the IDEM.

Paul Freeman asked if we could think about doing some work on the intersection of St Joe and BNH to repair some areas along the edges. Jeff will get an estimate.

Attorney comments

Attorney was not present

Resident comments

Mrs. Croce asked if there has been any progress on the 4H playground. Ken Godeke noted they have taken out the merry-go-round. Godeke added that nothing has been moved ahead. Eric Gries added that he spoke to Alan Bittner about storing the piece of equipment for the playground.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe
Clerk-Treasurer

