

**TOWN OF  
DARMSTADT, INDIANA**

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

**Minutes of  
March 10th 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 and Ray Engler. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Goerges and attorney Jason Spindler. Council Member Ken Godeke was absent.

Kendall made a motion, seconded by Engler to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed 3-0 voice vote.  
Kendall made a motion, seconded by Engler to approve last month's financial report. Motion passed 3-0 voice vote.  
Kendall made a motion, seconded by Engler to approve the accounts payable claims. Motion passed 3-0 voice vote.

**CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:** Our Annual Report was completed and submitted to State. I emailed out the full 18-page report to council. It has also been published in the Evansville Courier per the advertisement requirement. All went well. I've worked with our insurance company to get the members of our new Redevelopment Commission bonded. I mailed out applications for the members to sign and everyone has returned their signed forms and they've all been submitted to insurance.

**In the Utility Department:** The US post office has changed our forms for bulk first class mailings. These are the forms I fill out each month to mail our town's sewer bills. The prices have gone up but only ½ a penny per piece. So, each monthly sewer bill mailing costs us .285 cents each piece. Which is \$152.76 total per month. So, it only went up a total of about \$32 for the entire year.

I just want to mention again that the sewer dept continues to lose money despite our rate hikes. In 2012, just 8 years ago, the sewer dept had about \$300,000 now today it only has about \$100,000. Most of this is due to the huge hikes Evansville keeps putting on us. In 2012 our sewer bill from Evansville averaged \$9,000 a month, now our bill is about \$30,000 a month. That is about a \$21,000 increase per month since 2012.

In 2012 our average sewer income per month was \$32,000 and last year our average monthly sewer income was \$45,000. That is about a \$13,000 increase per month since 2012.

(output 2012 was 2,200,000 and output 2019 was 2,900,000)

**In General Town Items:** I attended the meeting in Boonville on February 24<sup>th</sup> along with clerks from Newburgh, Chandler, Jasper and other small towns to go over the new required Capital Assets and depreciation requirements from the State Board of Accounts. It's becoming much more in depth, where in the past we used to just be able to list our assets, now they are requiring us to calculate depreciation, record purchase dates, serial numbers, who purchased what, etc. We have the rest of this year to get our assets in order before next year's report is due.

Our next AIM Roundtable for Town Council's is 5pm Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> in Boonville at the Golf Club. Let me know if everyone can attend and I'll get us registered.

**Old Business**

No old business

**New Business**

**1. Discussion of Inspection of homes for sump pumps and infiltration**

As Lowe stated in her report, the sewer continues to lose money. Council discussed looking into hiring a contractor for home inspections to knock down the infiltration and check for sump pumps connected to sewer system. Council discussed if we could look into the revenues versus expenditures with Lowe and make a game plan. Lowe also suggested we can make changes with salary as to what percentage we pay from town funds and what percentage we

pay from sewer funds. Lowe advised that currently we pay 25% from town and 75% from sewer for maintenance personnel's salaries. Council will continue discussion next month.

**2. Ordinance 2020-3 Regarding Minimum Lot Size**

Kendall made a motion, seconded by Engler to accept ordinance. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote.

**3. Ordinance 2020-4 Regarding Abandoned Vehicles**

Kendall made a motion, seconded by Engler to accept ordinance. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote.

**4. Ordinance 2020-5 Regarding Cutting Roads, Sidewalks, curbs and curb ramps and driveways**

Kendall made a motion, seconded by Engler, to accept ordinance. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote.

**Superintendent Report**

Jeff stated that they will be attending the infiltration workshop in Owensville and also attending the Indiana 811 Pipeline safety class at the 4H Center. Jeff stated they patched some pot holes and cleaned out some ditches around town. Jeff noted that there is a culvert about 12' deep under Hoing road that looks like it may need replacing. Jeff advised they had a demo of a brush cutter blade. It's \$5k to purchase or about \$800 a week.

**Fire Dept Report**

Not present

**Deputy Sheriff Report**

Not present

**Board member comments**

No further comments

**Attorney comments**

No further comments

**Resident comments**

Carol Schlumpf asked if anyone has heard about St Joseph Avenue being closed for 6 months south of Meier Road by the landfill. Carol stated she had heard that they were going to extend the life of the landfill 10-20 years and do roadwork.

Eric Gries asked Jason Spindler if we sent a letter to Advanced Disposal. Jason replied we had. Eric stated he had met with Advanced Disposal yesterday and got the rate lowered to \$45 a month. Eric also asked how close a landscape boulder could be by the road. Jason replied there is no particular ordinance pertaining to that.

Eric Gries also advised if the council has considered hiring a part-time off-duty officer for a few hours a few days a month to police the traffic through town.

Kate Potter advised that Darmstadt Cleanup day is Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7am everyone meeting in shopping center parking lot. Potter also noted that Darmstadt Bierstube for Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> has 50 vendors booked for this year along with pedal tractor pulls.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe  
Clerk-Treasurer

