

Town of Darmstadt, Indiana

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

Minutes of
May 10th 2022

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

TOWN COUNCIL

Paul Freeman, President
Ken Godeke, Council Member
Ray Engler, Council Member
Jay Sollman, 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 Ken Godeke and Ray Engler. Also present was Attorney Jason Spindler, Maintenance Tech Mick Moreland and Interim Superintendent Aaron Enlow.

There were two candidates who were willing to fill the empty council seat, Crystal Kahre and Jay Sollman.

Godeke made a motion, seconded by Freeman to appoint Jay Sollman to empty council seat. Motion passed by a 3-0 voice vote.

Godeke made a motion, seconded by Sollman to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

Godeke made a motion, seconded by Engler to accept last month's financial report. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

Godeke made a motion, seconded by Engler to accept the accounts payable claims. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

In the Town Clerk's office, Mallory Lowe stated: Debbie Bennett-Stearsman is here tonight to talk about our ARPA Covid Grant. We met April 21st to get things completed with the April deadline.

I have a meeting this Friday with Cole Lawrence at Approval Payments Solutions. They are another company that provides online bill pay. This one is with Gov card. I will speak with him to see if their software works with Keystone Utility billing and what fees are involved. As you know we have no online BillPay or autopay capabilities. I've spoken and gotten quotes from several companies over the years but we've turned them all down. The last one was with Invoice Cloud which works with Keystone.

We have about 47% of the town pays at Old National Bank, 26% mail in their payment and 27% of the residents currently already pay online through their banks online bill pay service.

Next month we will receive our June settlement from the county which will be our semi-annual property tax revenue along with our municipal bond revenue. I will then turn around and pay the bank our semi-annual bond payment for the Old State Land which will be \$75,000.

In the Utility Department: I brought in \$46,972.73 last month in revenue for the sewer department and \$209,456.55 in Sewer revenue for the year so far. We're doing good, our accounts are strong.

I've mailed out 22 sewer overdue letters again last week for accounts over 90 days. One sewer lien release. We've had 3 properties change ownership last month. I'm still applying inspection credits monthly to sewer accounts and applying portable meter deductions from the monthly sewer bills. Bauerhaus and Dress Subdivision will start their summer averaging next month per our town Resolution, I've worked with Dress & Bauer on the 2022 calculations.

In General Town Items: Our AIM Roundtable with the other area towns is tomorrow night. Poseyville is hosting this one and it starts at 5:30 at the Red Wagon Restaurant. They will be speaking on the ARPA money and the AIM Medical Trust-Health Insurance programs for Indiana towns.

Old Business

1. **Performance Eval/Merit Bonus Overdue for 2021 & 2022 DUE by May 12, 2022**

Tabled but keep on agenda for June meeting per Jason Spindler

2. **ARPA Covid Grant Contract with Debbie Bennett-Stearsman**

Debbie Bennett-Stearsman explained the available options for our ARPA revenue. Debbie advised that the council has already approved the lost revenue for our report due to the Federal Government. Godeke spoke that on March

28th he, Bruce Ungethiem and some other residents decided to meet with an engineering firm. Aaron Enlow had info on sewer projects, pump stations and I & I. Godeke confirmed with Cecil Poag that they're looking for a system that would be able to bill our residents directly from their sewer outflow. Godeke advised Tom Small is leaving group. Godeke stated that someone named Greg McGallen spoke with the resident's group and explained that the town doesn't qualify for grant based on our median income. Debbie Bennett-Stearsman noted that, that is just that's agency's qualification but that we may qualify for municipal grant options or can use ARPA grant money. Godeke stated that they are also still looking into Aaron Enlow's idea of disconnecting the 11 manhole covers to cut down on infiltration. The resident group has received 3 quotes from plumbers. Debbie Bennett-Stearsman stated that she can work with the sewer committee on allocating the ARPA funds for this project if they would like to contact her.

Godeke stated that Poag advised the homeowner's water meters should be calibrated every 10 years. Godeke will contact Evansville Water Company and German Township Water Company to see when last calibrations were done on their meters in Darmstadt. Harold Grossman added they need to be calibrated exactly to the specifications by the manufacturer. Lowe added that the Water Companies are regulated by the IURC so should be easy to check records.

Godeke advised that the committee discussed having Cecil Poag be the consultant between the town maintenance department and the town resident's sewer committee.

Cecil Poag will be the consultant, for no charge for the first 6 months and then the resident's sewer committee and town council could revisit the job details after 6 months. Poag agreed to take the position.

3. Sub-Lease of Old State Road Property

Spindler advised that council has already reviewed the sub-lease that has been agreed to by the farmer Mike Gries.

New Business

Maintenance Dept Report

Aaron Enlow advised that they had 49 sump pump inspections. Mick has been mowing the town. Aaron advised that culvert on Watershore had an engineer come out and look at it. Aaron stated that the culvert on Wortman would be put on the timeline.

Aaron advised that there would be 3 sections of pipe, backfill to fill in the area across from Trinity Church. Engler made motion, seconded by Godeke to install pipe at Trinity's cemetery easement, motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

Aaron Enlow stated that there is a dangerous concrete apron off Wortman road. Spindler noted that have been speaking with that homeowner about moving the concrete back from the road in the easement. Spindler stated the apron is to be cut and all moved back 16" from the road, Sollman made a motion, seconded by Engler, motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

Spindler advised that there is riprap on road edge at 12900 Martin Road that needs attention. Spindler noted that he tried to reach the homeowner Scot Wright, as well as Ray Engler also tried to reach him about the riprap but homeowner did not respond. Engler noted that the riprap the homeowner put down is on the road surface itself.

Paul suggested that maintenance push the riprap back off the road and fill with #53 since this is a safety issue. Spindler stated he has concern about the email that Jeff Goerges had sent to the homeowner last year. Engler read aloud the email from Jeff Goerges to the homeowner about the 6" riprap that the homeowner planned to install.

Spindler stated he will write a letter to the homeowner first, stating that this is in our easement and we will take care of the safety issue.

Aaron Enlow advised there is a town resident that received a complaint about his driveway width. Homeowner at 12890 Tibarand is being required to submit a zoning variance to Vanderburgh County from this complaint, however there are many homeowners in violation if this is the case. Engler made a motion, seconded by Godeke to grant a variance for 12890 Tibarand's driveway width.

Fire Dept Report

Brandon Zimmer stated they had 8 total runs within town limits, 7 medical and one brush fire. They are up to 581 since January.

Sheriff Report

Noah Robinson advised he was here as a private citizen. He reviewed the report for occurrences within Darmstadt. Had 3 crashes last month which one was the culvert on Wortman that was discussed, which caused over \$17k in damage. There were a couple theft reports at the store-n-lock.

Board member comments

Paul Freeman stated that he's been notified by IDEM that new qualifications for SM4 separate storm sewer system program are not met. Freeman stated that he spoke with the Evansville office and that they would handle it for us. Freeman noted that we were placed on a list at the Evansville EPA office and that IDEM sent Paul Freeman a notification letter at his personal residence. Lowe noted that no letter or any correspondence has been received at the town.

Jay Sollman thanked council and stated he looked forward to working with everyone.

Attorney comments

Spindler noted that the defendant failed to appear from TV Parts now. There has been a trial date set for next year. He advised that he served Longitudes LLC which is the property owner on record. An insurance agent contacted Spindler to state he thinks he has the wrong person, Spindler added that the correct property owner was served that was on record.

Resident comments

No public comments or questions allowed.

Crystal Kahre advised that Darmstadt Day is coming up on June 4th.

The meeting adjourned 9:05pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe

Clerk-Treasurer



Mallory Lowe
Dawn Cook